

**LETTERS  
FROM IRELAND**

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Letters from Ireland by Harriet Martineau

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**HARRIET MARTINEAU**

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FROM  
IRELAND.

BY  
HARRIET MARTINEAU.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THESE Letters were communicated to the 'Daily News' during my journey in Ireland this last autumn. A reprint of them, as a volume, has been asked for, and I now obey the call. My readers will take them for what they are—a rapid account of impressions received and thoughts excited from day to day, in the course of a journey of above 1200 miles. I have thought it best not to alter them, either in form or matter. There would be no use in attempting to give anything of the character of a closet-book to letters written sometimes in a coffee-room, sometimes in the crowded single parlour of a country inn,—now to the sound of the harp, and now to the clatter of knives and forks, and scarcely ever within reach of books; therefore have I left untouched what I wrote, even to the notices of passing incidents as if they were still present, and references to a future already fulfilled.

The issue of the Letters in this form enables me to render one acknowledgment which I was rather uneasy not to be able to make at the time—an acknowledgment of my obligations to the members of the Dublin Statistical Society and of the Belfast Social Inquiry Society, whose tracts, before interesting to me by my own fireside, were of high value in my journey, by directing my observation and inquiries. They not only taught me much, but put me in the way to learn more. When I had the honour of meeting Professor Hancock in Dublin, and told him how freely I was using his ideas in my interpretation of Irish affairs, he made me heartily welcome to all such materials as might be found in his tracts, saying that all that any of us want is that true views should spread, for the benefit of Ireland. He can afford to be thus generous; and I, for my part, must request my readers to ascribe to him, and the other economists of those societies, whatever they may think valuable in my treatment of economical questions in this volume; the rest is the result of my own observation, inquiry, and reflection, on the way.

H. M.

THE KNOLL, AMBLESIDE,  
*December 20th, 1852.*



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