

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE FAMINE OF
1846-7, IN THE HIGHLANDS OF
SCOTLAND AND IN IRELAND: AS
ILLUSTRATING THE CONNECTION OF THE
PRINCIPLE OF POPULATION WITH THE
MANAGEMENT OF THE POOR**

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Observations on the Famine of 1846-7, in the Highlands of Scotland and in Ireland: As illustrating the connection of the principle of population with the Management of the poor by William Pulteney Alison

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WILLIAM PULTENEY ALISON

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BY
WILLIAM PULTENEY ALISON,
M.D., F.R.S.E., &c.,
PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH,
AND FIRST PHYSICIAN TO HER MAJESTY FOR SCOTLAND.

"A calamity like the present ought to be improved, but there is great danger of the lesson taught
"by it being misread, and the opportunity lost, of introducing a sounder policy of management into the
"Highlands."—*Memorial of the Central Relief Board to the Lords of the Treasury.*

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.
MDCCCXLVII.

van

Alison, Wm Pittman,

THE FAMINE OF 1846-7,

THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND AND IN IRELAND.

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OBSERVATIONS
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THE FAMINE OF 1846-7.

SEVERAL events have occurred in this country within the last few years, the nature of which may be exhibited by precise statistical statements, and which seem to me to lead, by a very short and conclusive process of reasoning, to a certain and positive conclusion, as to the general principle on which the management of the Poor, in a country in an advanced stage of civilization, ought to be conducted. Indeed, the importance and urgency of some of these events have been such as to lead most persons, I believe, to regard that question as, at least for a time, taken out of the hands of philosophers and economists, and decided for us by Nature; and the measures lately adopted for the relief of distress in Ireland have been considered by many as demanded by justice and humanity, and by a sense of religious duty, but not as justified by Science or Reasoning.

Painful, however, as the contemplation of these events must be to all, they are equally subjects of scientific

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