

# **IRISH EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: WHAT IT HAS BEEN, AND WHAT IT IS**

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Irish Emigration to the United States: What It Has Been, and What It Is by Stephen Byrne

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**STEPHEN BYRNE**

**IRISH EMIGRATION TO THE  
UNITED STATES: WHAT IT  
HAS BEEN, AND WHAT IT IS**



# IRISH EMIGRATION

TO THE

UNITED STATES:

WHAT IT HAS BEEN, AND WHAT IT IS.

*Facts and Reflections especially addressed to Irish People  
intending to emigrate from their native land; and  
to those living in the large cities of Great  
Britain and of the United States.*

BY

THE REV. STEPHEN BYRNE, O.S.D.

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## PREFACE.

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**I**N preparing this work for the perusal of Irish emigrants and their children, there is not the least intention of encouraging more emigration, especially from Ireland, than has already taken place. But inasmuch as it still goes on, and is likely to continue for years to come, the information and suggestions contained herein may be useful to many—hurtful to none. I must acknowledge, in fact, that the real motive of putting these pages into print is the following: A large number of emigrants from Ireland, in leaving their homes either from choice or necessity, have made, I think, a very fatal mistake in crowding into the large cities of England, Scotland, and America. By all who have given the subject any consideration, as well

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as by those who have made it a study, the conclusion has been reached that it would have been far better for the majority of them to have sought employment and homes on the vacant or semi-vacant lands of the United States. It is highly probable that many among them are prepared to rectify the mistake, if they only know where to go. The object, therefore, of this publication is to supply that information as far as it can be done in a brief space.

The work is in two parts: the *first* contains information and directions of a general character respecting the prospects, duties, dangers, and mistakes of emigrants; the *second part* contains as exact a statement, probably, as can be found of the population, area, and general resources of each State and Territory, based upon the United States Census Report for 1870. Appended to the account of each State and Territory, in the material point of view, is an account of the condition of the Catholic Church in each, based upon the statistics given in the *Catholic*



*Almanac* of 1873, or taken from letters actually received from the Most Rev. and Right Rev. Archbishops and Bishops of the country, nearly all of whom were applied to for information.

In preparing the work, I wrote also to about thirty Governors of States and Territories for special information regarding their respective localities. Answers and pamphlets have been received from nearly all of them, which are made use of extensively in the *second part* of the work.

At first it was intended to have published a larger work; but reflection on the subject dictated the greater utility of a short treatise which would not be too dear to be bought, or too diffuse to be read, by those for whom it is intended. It may not be amiss to say that the work, such as it is, is the result of more than twenty years' actual observation of immigrant life in most of the States and in many of the large cities of the Union. If only one thousand persons are benefited by the perusal of these pages, or if any are res-

cued from the evil influences and wretched poverty of immigrant life in large cities, the writer will have received his reward.

AUGUST 4, 1873.

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