

**JAMES FINTAN LALOR,
PATRIOT & POLITICAL
ESSAYIST (1807-1849)**

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James Fintan Lalor, patriot & political essayist (1807-1849) by L. Fogarty

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L. FOGARTY

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BY
L. FOGARTY, B.A.

With a Preface by Arthur Griffith



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PREFACE

The national demand for Repeal of the Union was degraded in the latter years of Conciliation Hall into a whine for "ameliorative measures" and the meaning of the noble term Moral Force distorted from passive resistance to despotism into passive obedience to tyranny. It is on his letters to the Confederate and Repeal Clubs, wherein under the name of "moral insurrection," he restored a true meaning to Moral Force, on his Letter to the Landlords of Ireland, and on his article on Tenant-Right and Landlord-Law that Fintan Lalor's reputation as a thinker must rest.

After Davis, Mitchel, Duffy, and perhaps Father Kenyon, Lalor ranks as the most vigorous intellect of the Young Ireland movement; but he was rather in the movement than of the movement. The restoration of the soil to the peasantry was a greater ideal to him than the restoration of political liberty to the nation.