

**THE SOUTH OF  
IRELAND  
AND HER POOR**

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The South of Ireland and Her Poor by Anonymous

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" Dans un temps de lumière on ne regarde les parties que pour juger du tout ensemble, on examine toutes les causes pour voir tous les resultats."

MONTESQUIEU, *Esprit des Loix.*

LONDON .  
SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.  
1843.

TO  
THE LANDLORDS AND EMPLOYERS OF LABOUR

IN

*The South of Ireland,*

THE FOLLOWING PAGES

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.



## PREFACE.

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It should be explained whence it arises, that a repetition of the sense of some passages occurs. The subjects, though all tending to a common end, were written on at different periods, and that which made each perfect in itself, has now been omitted in order to connect the whole; much relating to the Poor Law has been added. It was, however, impossible to expunge, so that the same idea should not be repeated unless the entire were re-constructed, of which time did not admit. Though all novelty is totally disclaimed for the subject matter, it may bring on discussion as to "whether these things are so."





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AND

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It is recorded that one of our viceroys, on entering the port of Dublin, inquired of the pilot the name of the sand-bank to the north of the entrance, to which he replied, "The North Bull, your honour;" "And that to the south?" continued his Excellency, "The South Bull, your honour;" "And that village?" "Ring's End." "Oh, dear," said his lordship, "two Bulls and an impossibility on entering!—how shall I ever meet the Irish parliament?"

In a dilemma not very different from that of the viceroy will he be who contemplates for the first time the social position of Ireland. He will discover that each circumstance which he may

suppose to be the Ring's End, is but the consequence of some antecedent one, and thus he will be driven the round of the circle, without finding one point whence to start. The probability is, that unless necessitated to come to some conclusion, disgust of the subject will succeed to despair of finding its solution.

As he proceeds in his inquiries, he will find the most apparently contradictory faculties united: in the landlords, a reputed large income, and a frequently-urged inability to assist the tenantry; in the tenantry, a generally-expressed wish of improvement, accompanied by great negligence when shewn the best mode of cultivation. Amongst those in the lower grade of *business*, he will hear of want of capital and stagnation of trade, yet he will find many of these persons indulging in pursuits and making a show in the world totally unsuited to their circumstances in life, were these to be estimated by inferences from their own words. Let him pass through the country: he will discover the peasants to be exceedingly shrewd and intelligent—all will boast of the fertility of the soil in general, though each