

**CONSIDERATIONS  
ON THE STATE OF  
IRELAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649339921

Considerations on the State of Ireland by William Knox

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM KNOX**

**CONSIDERATIONS  
ON THE STATE OF  
IRELAND**



3585  
CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

THE NEW YORK  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
P 16484  
ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1858.

S T A T E

O F

I R E L A N D.

[By William Knox.]

---

D U B L I N :

WILLIAM WATSON.

M, DCC, LXXVIII.

CSD  
(Knox)



iv INTRODUCTION.

than a member of the British empire, its constitution partakes so much of a separate state, that almost the whole of its polity is left to the arrangement of its own domestic government; besides the aptness of men, removed to a distance from the seat of empire; to be swayed by early prejudices or local attachments, their best calculated projects for promoting the particular interest of their country must ever run the hazard of being defeated, by clashing with the particular interest of some other member, or interfering with the general  
and

## INTRODUCTION. v

and combined interests of the whole.

To the want of a knowledge of the general and combined interest of the empire, in those who have had the direction of the affairs in Ireland since the Revolution, may in a great measure be ascribed the slow progress Ireland has made in population, cultivation, commerce, and wealth, compared with other parts of the British dominions.

It is not my present purpose to point out instances in proof  
of



vi INTRODUCTION.

of this assertion, but there is one so striking and obvious, that I cannot help mentioning it.

*inca*  
*to comprehend*  
*whole part*

In the 19th year of the reign of James the 1st. the whole number of white inhabitants in ~~all~~ the British colonies in North America amounted to no more than 4000, at which time Ireland contained a million; yet with such a prodigious start we have seen Ireland, in a little more than a century, overtaken by America, and in some particulars surpassed; for it is beyond controversy, that until her late imprudence in exciting the jealousy,

INTRODUCTION. vii

jealousy, and provoking the resentment of Great Britain, British America was nearly as populous as Ireland; her people were better fed, better clothed, better lodged, and more happy; she had more shipping, more trade, and more credit; and during the whole time laboured under more restraints from English laws than Ireland did, with soil much less fertile, and a climate neither so temperate or salutary. But altho' the continual migrations of the people might have shewn our rulers that there was something doing in America,

viii INTRODUCTION.

rica, that made Irishmen prefer it to their own country; it never occurred to them to enquire what that was. No member of the Irish legislature ever thought of reading a colony act of assembly, or looking into their constitutions or forms of government, or acquiring a knowledge of the nature of their trade, the regulations it was subject to, or the privileges they enjoyed; and it would not be hazarding much to affirm, that not a single volume of the laws of any one of the seventeen colonies on the continent is, or ever was,