
Reflections On the State of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century

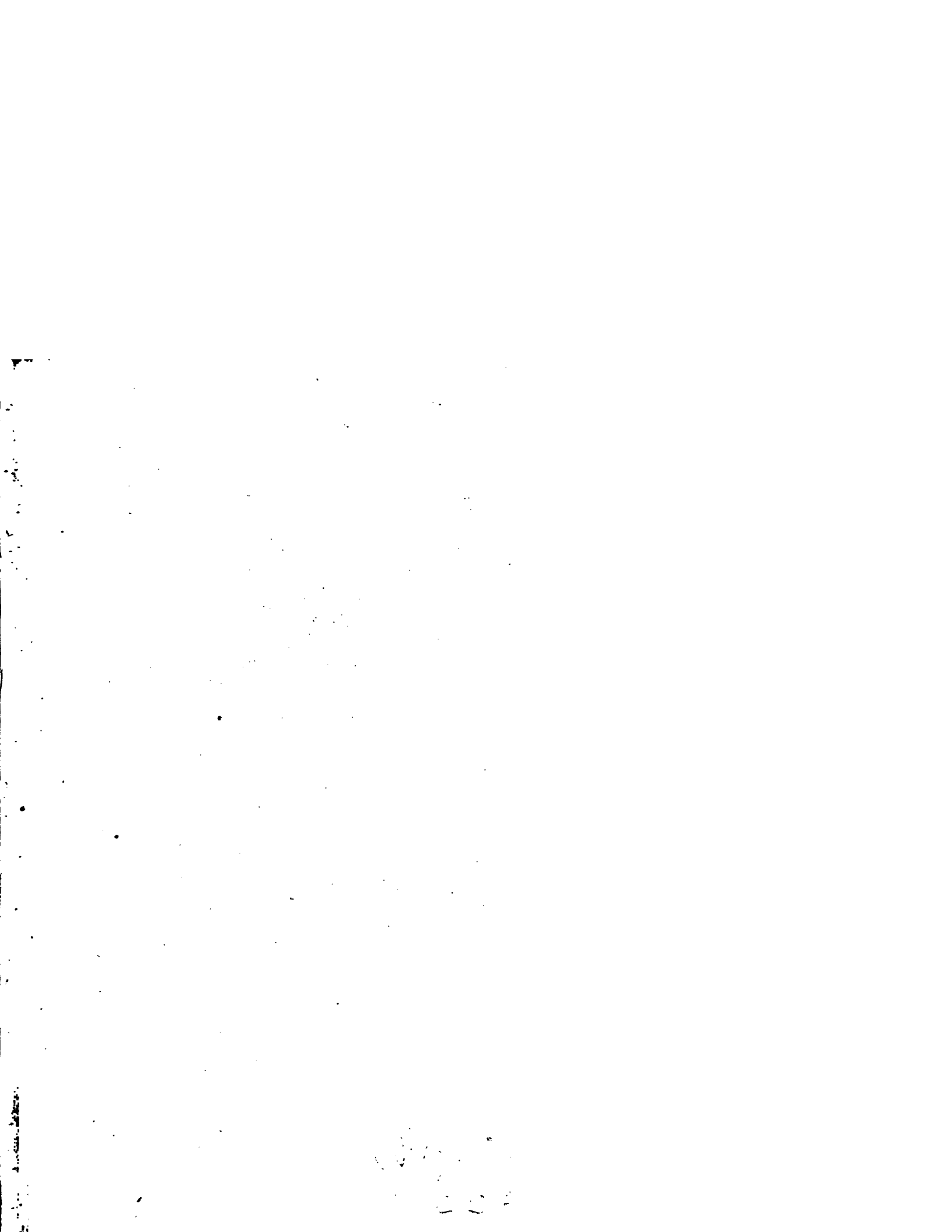
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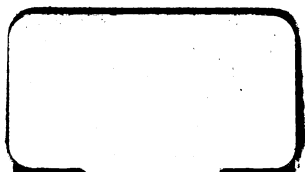
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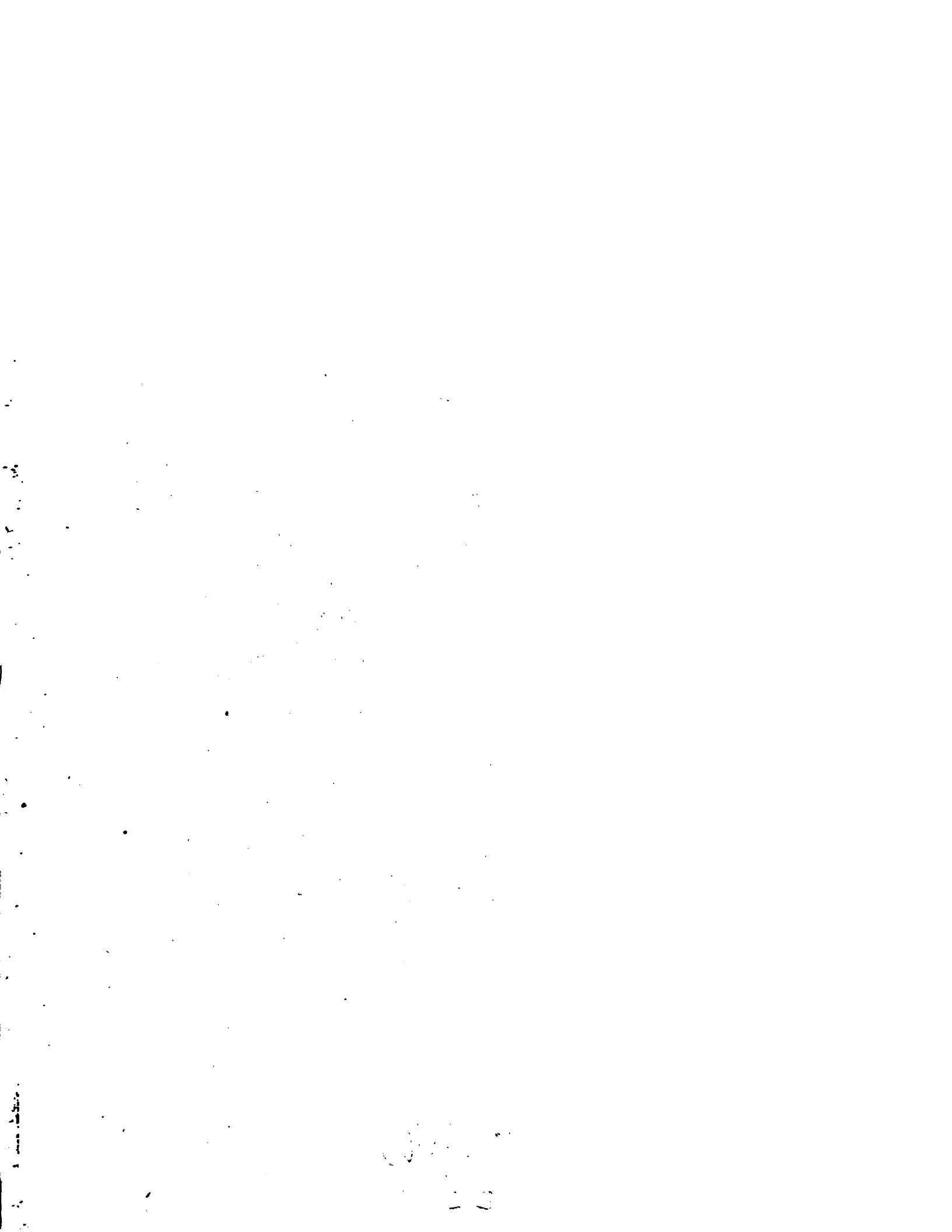
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2037/00

REFLECTIONS

ON THE

STATE OF IRELAND,

IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY;

THE PROGRESSIVE OPERATION OF THE CAUSES
WHICH HAVE PRODUCED IT;

AND

THE MEASURES BEST CALCULATED TO REMOVE
SOME, AND TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF
OTHERS OF THEM.

ADDRESSED TO THE

British Members of both Houses of Parliament.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR JAMES RIDGWAY, 170, PICCADILLY.

1822.

COA

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
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ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.
1898.

TO

IRELAND'S BEST BENEFACTOR,

HER FRIEND, NOT MORE ILLUSTRIOUS THAN ATTACHED,

The following Faithful Portrature

OF

**THE FEELINGS AND FACULTIES WITH WHICH NATURE HAS
GIFTED HER PEOPLE,**

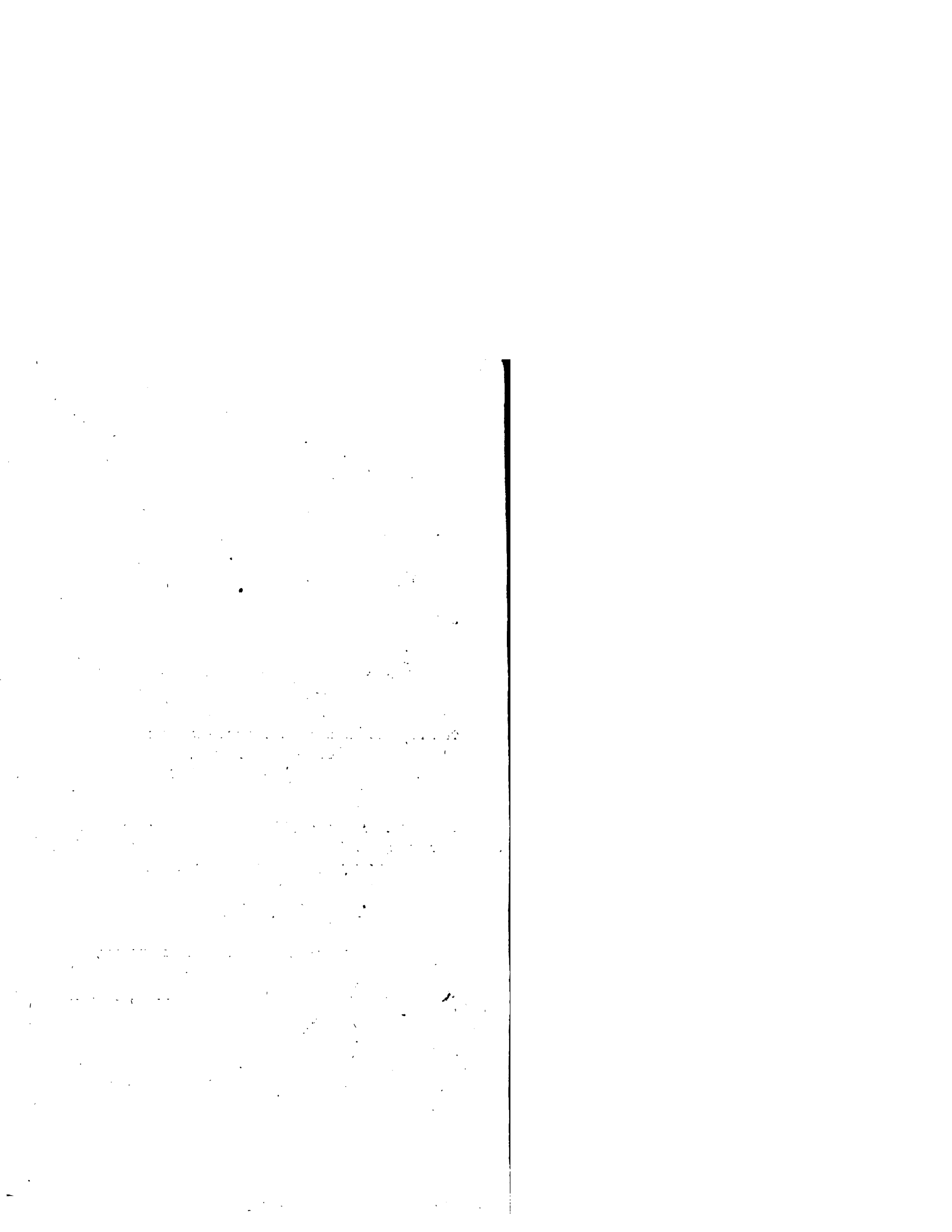
AND OF

**THE ERRORS AND FAILINGS—THE OFFSPRING OF A BASE
AND RESOTTED POLICY—WHICH HAVE MARRED HER
ENJOYMENT OF THE BOUNTIES OF PROVIDENCE,**

Is respectfully inscribed,

BY HIS MAJESTY'S DUTIFUL SUBJECT,

THE AUTHOR.



PREFACE.

THERE is but one excuse for intruding on the public another pamphlet on the state of Ireland,—that those who have inundated the press with such productions, have omitted some important topic of argument, or neglected to afford some information, which it is essential that *those whom I address* should possess. To expect to reinforce arguments already so variously, and in many cases so ably urged, would be as presumptuous, as to re-state facts already adduced would be idle.

To remove the obstacles which impede the attempts of non-resident legislators to perform their duties to Ireland, is the object of the following pages.

“Ireland,” says an able writer, “and in a greater degree than other countries, has feelings that must be flattered, and prejudices and habits that, to be conquered, must be soothed: she must not be stretched on the Procrustan bed, or lopped or lengthened to an iron scale. *Those that legislate for her should know her*; and their system should be elastic and accommodating.”* Nor is it inconsistent with the respect I feel for the work of that

* State of Ireland, Past and Present, p. 26.

writer, alike elegant as able, to seek my excuse in the omissions of others: for in the bird's eye—rather let me say, eagle's view—of the state of Ireland, of which he hastily sketched his "Outline," he did not profess to pre-occupy the province which I have undertaken, at least not in its full extent. The object I have proposed to myself cannot be attained, except by affording to my reader information in detail somewhat similar to that which a residence in that country would afford to a reflecting mind. But such a minute investigation would have been totally inconsistent with his sketch.

Nothing is easier than to enumerate alleged or apparent causes of grievances, except to deplore them when enumerated; nothing easier than to affirm the seat of errors, by saying the fault lies with this class, or that sect, or this code, or that system of executing it, except the sweeping allegation, that the fault is "no where to be found, yet every where." The grievances, it is true, have been pointed out, as well as their *proximate causes*, and both pathetically deplored; but the more practically useful province, of stating why these evils and errors, and their proximate causes, exist at all, in the nineteenth century,—whence their *remoter* origin,—and of distinctly explaining to those who are unacquainted with Ireland how they operate, by tracing step by step all the intervening causes and effects, which form the lengthened chain that connects the first cause with its latest effect,—this task has been reserved for some person, I hope, successfully to accomplish—for me humbly to attempt.

In the performance of this duty, I shall be necessarily led to an object not less important to those whom I address—that of trying each theoretical conclusion which I shall offer, by the test of practical facts; a duty which