

Before Norms

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Institutions AND Civic Culture

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AND

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for Rachael and Saul
RJ

for Kris and Mom
RM

“An antipathy to labour, or an insensitivity to its advantages, is now, as in the days of Fynes Moryson and Bishop Berkeley, a distinguishing trait in the character of the Irish people. Their extreme poverty is principally a consequence of their extreme sloth.”

—J. R. McCulloch

*A Descriptive and Statistical Account of the British Empire,
Exhibiting Its Extent, Physical Capabilities, Population,
Industry, and Civil and Religious Institutions* (1847)

“The poor catholics in the south of Ireland spin wool very generally, but . . . the professors of that religion are under such discouragements that they cannot engage in any trade which requires both industry and capital. If they succeed and make a fortune what are they to do with it? They can neither buy land, nor take a mortgage, nor even fine down the rent of a lease. Where is there a people in the world to be found industrious under such a circumstance?”

—Arthur Young

*A Tour in Ireland, With General Observations on the
Present State of That Kingdom, Made in the Years 1776, 1777,
and 1778 and Brought Down to the End of 1779* (1780)

“Had the Treaty of Limerick been faithfully kept; had the Irish Roman Catholics, humbled by defeat, been treated with even-handed justice, as entitled to the protection of the laws equally with their Protestant fellow-subjects, the result of the one hundred and fifty years which have since elapsed might have been widely different. But almost the first act of the Irish legislature was to pass those penal laws, of which an eminent historian has declared, that ‘to have exterminated the Catholics by the sword, or expelled them like the Moriscoes of Spain, would have been little more repugnant to justice and humanity, but incomparably more politic.’ ”

—Jonathan Pim

*The Condition and Prospects of Ireland and the Evils
Arising from the Present Distribution of Landed Property:
With Suggestions for a Remedy* (1848)