

1830-1914: the great Irish migration



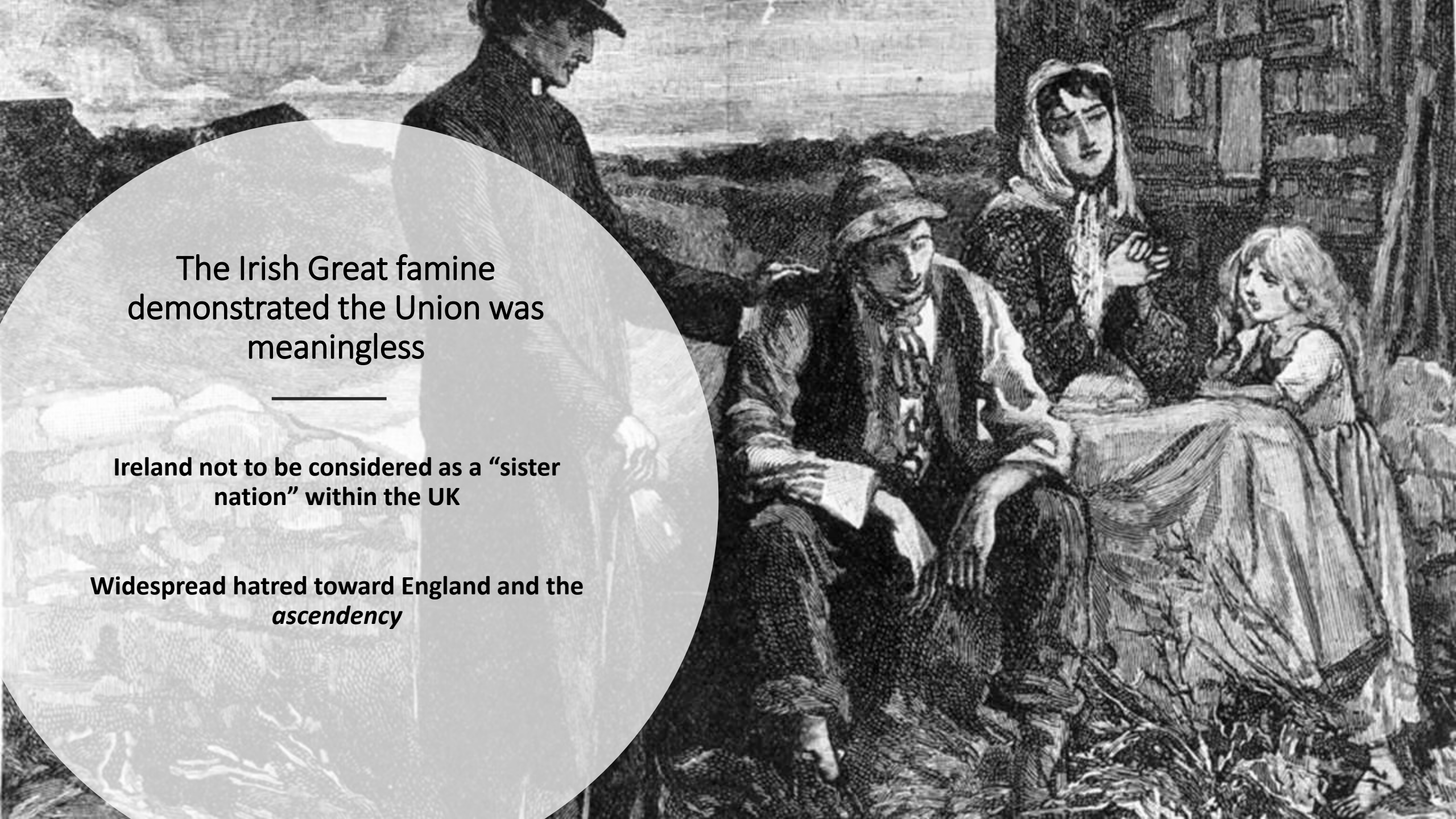
1850s: « *Ireland is the most peaceful country in Europe* »

The failure of the 1848 rebellion
Active secret societies



TERENCE BELLEW McMANUS





The Irish Great famine
demonstrated the Union was
meaningless

Ireland not to be considered as a “sister
nation” within the UK

Widespread hatred toward England and the
ascendency



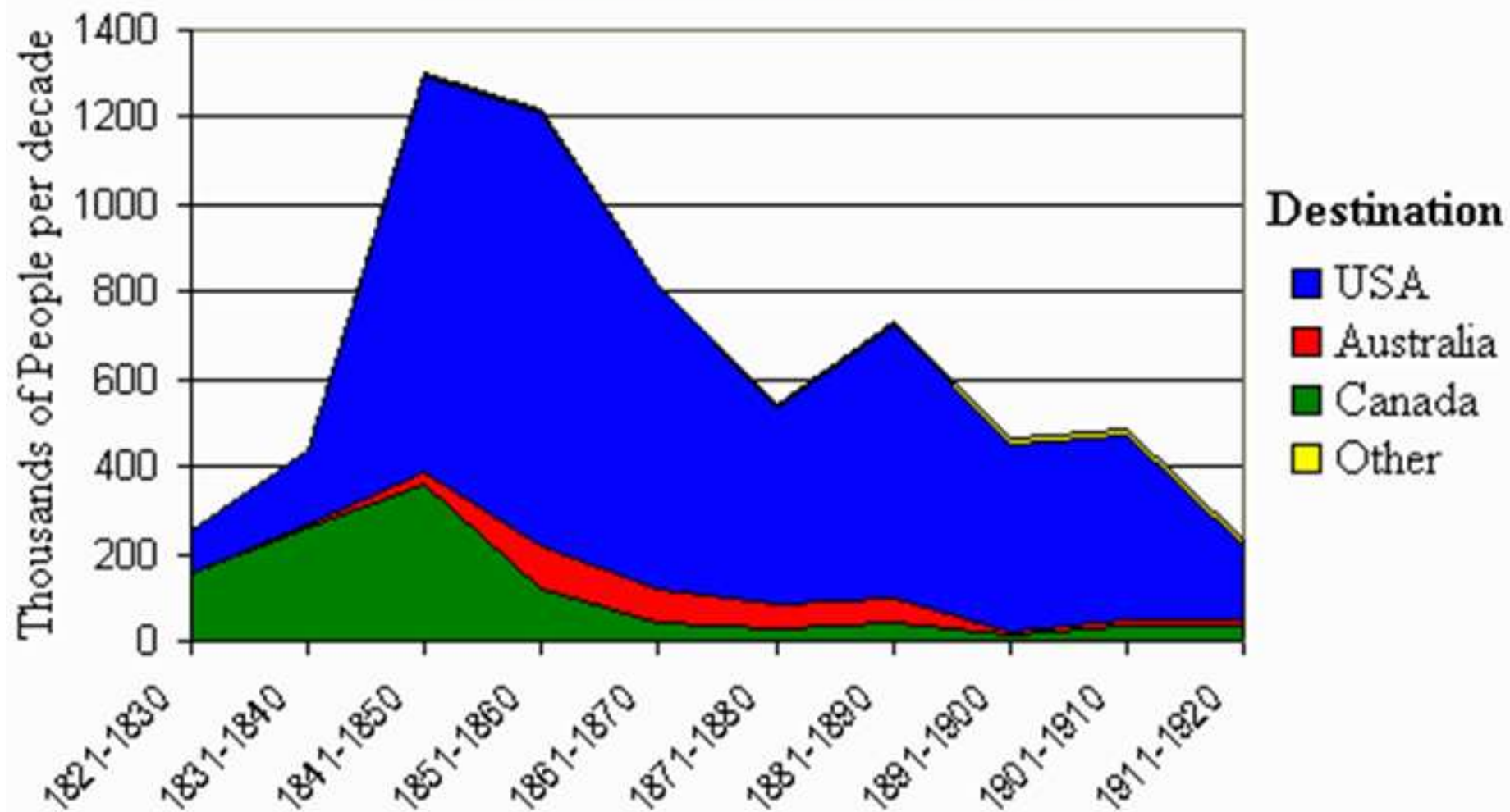
1830-1914: 7.6 million emigrants

2.3 million between 1845 & 1855

39% of Irish left by 1890

Destinations: anglophone countries/British Empire & the U.S. (5.6 million)

Destination of Overseas Emigrants from Ireland 1821-1920



Irish emigration prior to
1845: a **selective emigration**

Lower agricultural prices

The *Clearances*: evictions of
tenants by the landlords

Emigration to the U.S. & Canada

Deep attachment to Ireland:
emigration = a sacrifice



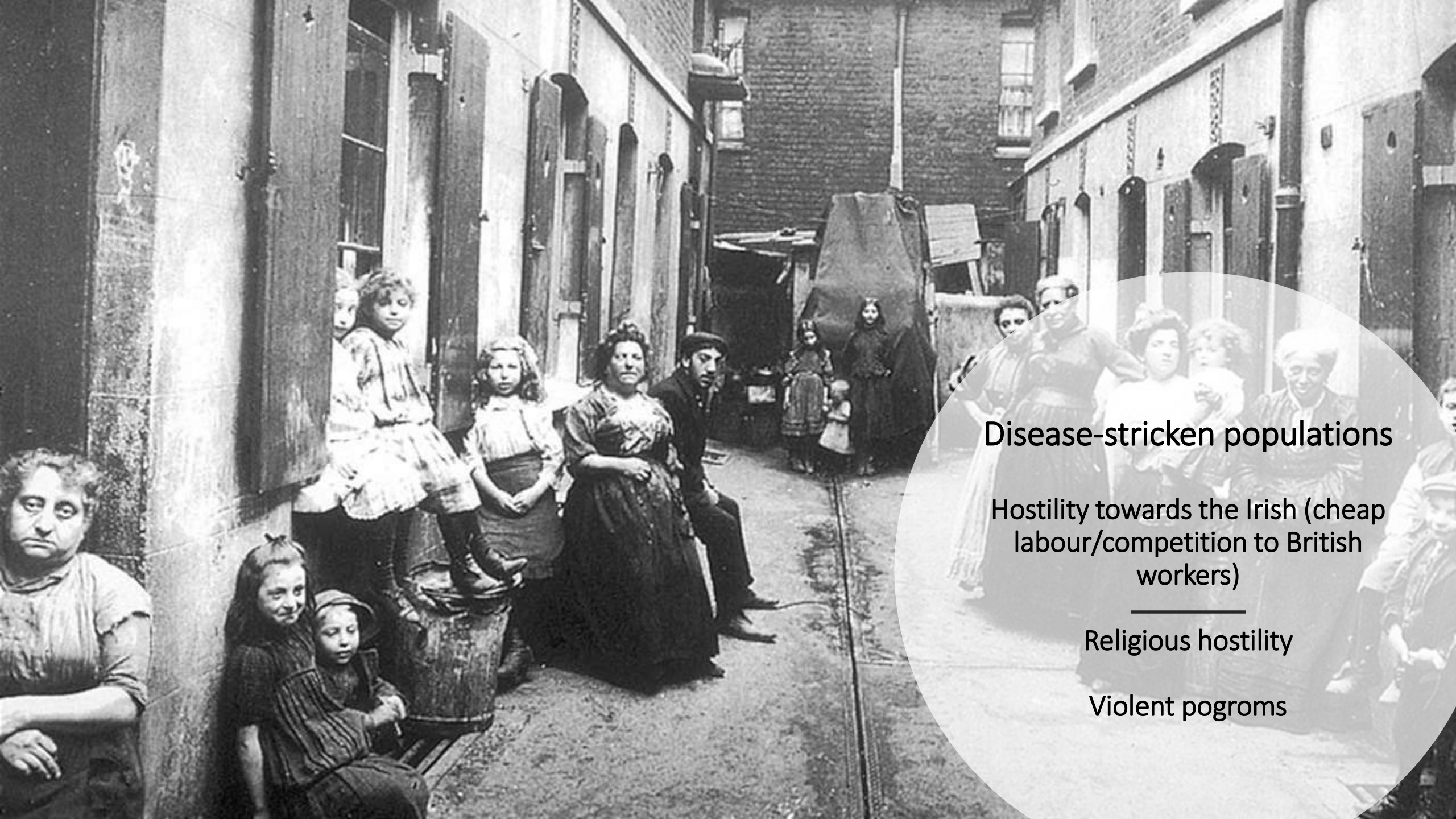
To flee the famine at all cost

Primary destination: Great Britain

British industrial cities (up to 18% of the total population)

Slums (“Little Irelands”)





Disease-stricken populations

Hostility towards the Irish (cheap
labour/competition to British
workers)

Religious hostility

Violent pogroms

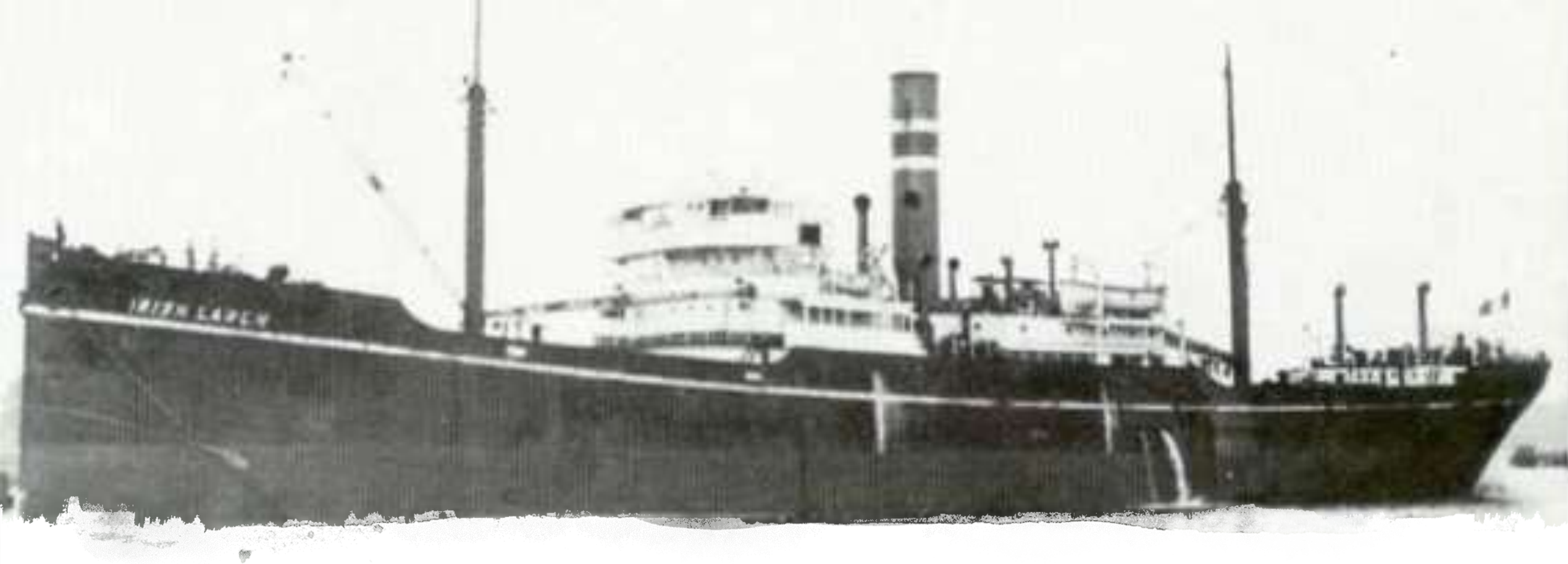
Destination America

Hundreds of thousands of Irish left for the “New World”

Transatlantic passage: a lucrative business (shipping companies)

The poorest at the mercy of smugglers (security measures not respected)





440 passengers

108 deaths at sea

150 arrived suffering from typhoid fever

"If one could add crosses on the water, the migrant road through the Atlantic would be like a huge cemetery"



Quarantine upon arrival

Hostility towards the Irish:

America to become "*the refuge for Europe's sick*"
Influx of poor immigrants: dragging down wages
Irish Catholics: a threat to Anglo-Saxon Protestant values



Anti-Irish riots

Rumors of Catholic conspiracies
against American democracy

to the same degree as paganism and popery, which we have brought into Spain, Ireland and many other lands.

Servants, Philistines say that if his friends have any money when he dies, they may purchase a hole for him in my country, at a fair price.

I cannot bear to see that day with that horrible look.

We should Reverend Father, I'll hold our hand by this spring of showers.

You may neither even see lightning over here; for we can take care of our own weather affairs, and are determined to have nothing but fine land, to grow us in a perfect things.

No you don't, M'Pope! your is altogether inward long and you can't put the much of the finest in America.

YOUNG AMERICA

BROTHER JONATHAN

UNITED STATES

Reproduced according to the original in the 1853 G. P. O. Report on the State of the Union, as the United States of the Southern States of N.Y.

THE PROPAGATION SOCIETY. — MORE FREE THAN WELCOME.



The **Native American Party** (the « Know Nothing »)

« America to Americans »

Anti-Catholic, xenophobic & hostile to immigration

Open war to Catholics

The majority of Irish immigrants: **urban ghettos**

150 000 Irish settled in Boston (1845-1860)

New York: 25-30% of population

Disease-stricken slums (cholera/tuberculosis)

“Irish Town”, “Paddy Town” or “The English Channel”

Alcoholism & street violence



The Irish immigrants perceived as impossible to assimilate to American society



THE IRISH DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT WE ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH.

Stereotypes: the drunken & undisciplined Irish

Courage & obstinacy: **slow integration** to American society – **upward economic mobility**

Massively represented within New York police force & street gangs

The experience of secret societies/mass movements: a primary role within American social & political institutions



AMERICAN



FEDERATION of LABOR

— DO TH GRANT THIS —



Catholic Church in America
controlled by the Irish

Centralized power vs. multiple
Protestant denominations

Catholic Church: the leading
religious power in the U.S.



The emergence of an efficient
Irish “political machine”

Municipal politics

Control of the Democratic
Party (influence peddling)

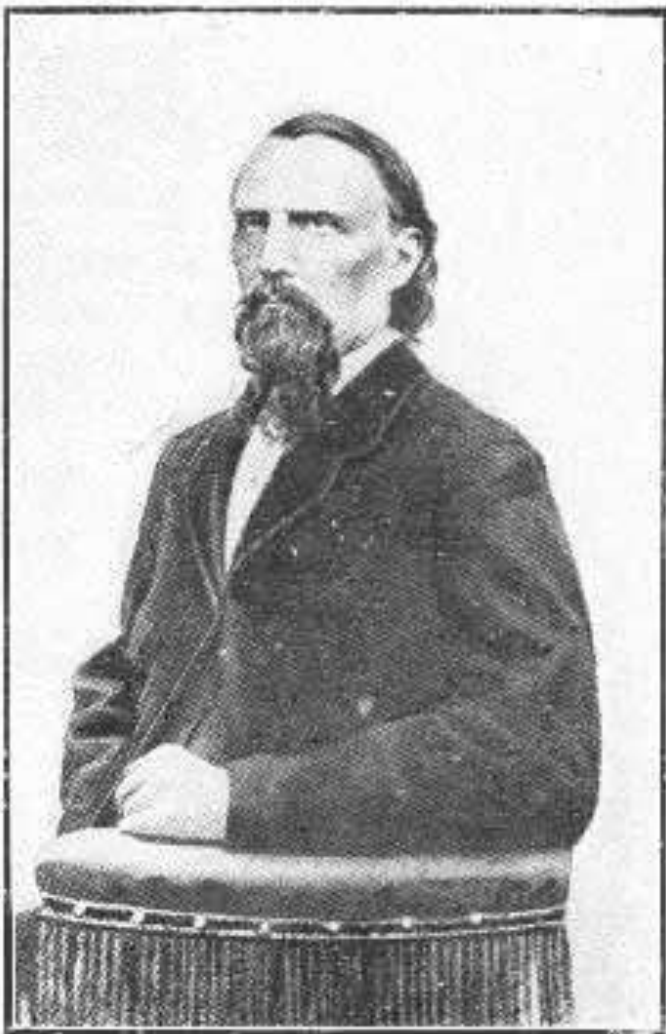




The consequence of the rise of an *Irish* power in America

The « **Irish question** » no longer solely a UK issue

A “second Ireland” out of reach of British power



John O'Mahony
(Circa 1867)

"England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity"

John O'Mahony: Irish diaspora, the key to a successful revolutionary enterprise

An Irish-American community eager to help

Armed insurrection: the only path for Ireland

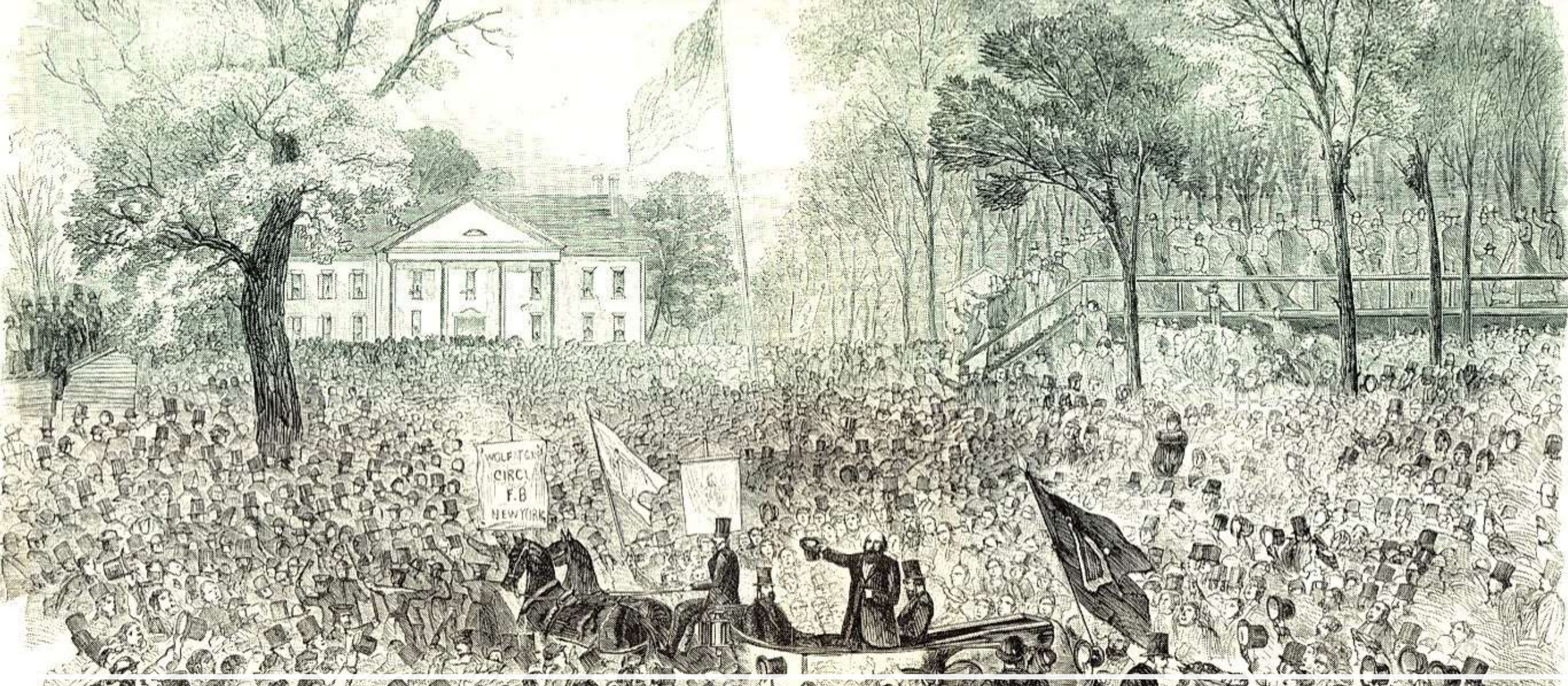
Revolutionary organization required first



James Stevens: the founding of the **Irish Republican Brotherhood**

The goal: a democratic and independent republic of Ireland by force

The **Fenian Brotherhood** in the U.S.
(John O'Mahony)



Fenian rally in New York





Erin's soil the Saxon foe
ne shall be forever driven;
Erin's sons who bear the woe,
suits chain shall soon be riven;
Erin's emerald isle shall be
not Freedom in the sea.

FREEDOM TO IRELAND.

Then up and arm at Erin's call,
Ye FENIAN sons of Irish sires
On every hill and mountain tall,
Arise and light your signal fires,
And swear to win with heart and hand
The Freedom of your Native land

NEW YORK, PUBLISHED BY C. B. BROWN, 152 NASSAU ST.

The opposition of the Catholic Church and moderate Irish nationalists

Growing support among peasantry and working classes

Deep division Fenians vs. Irish Republican Brotherhood

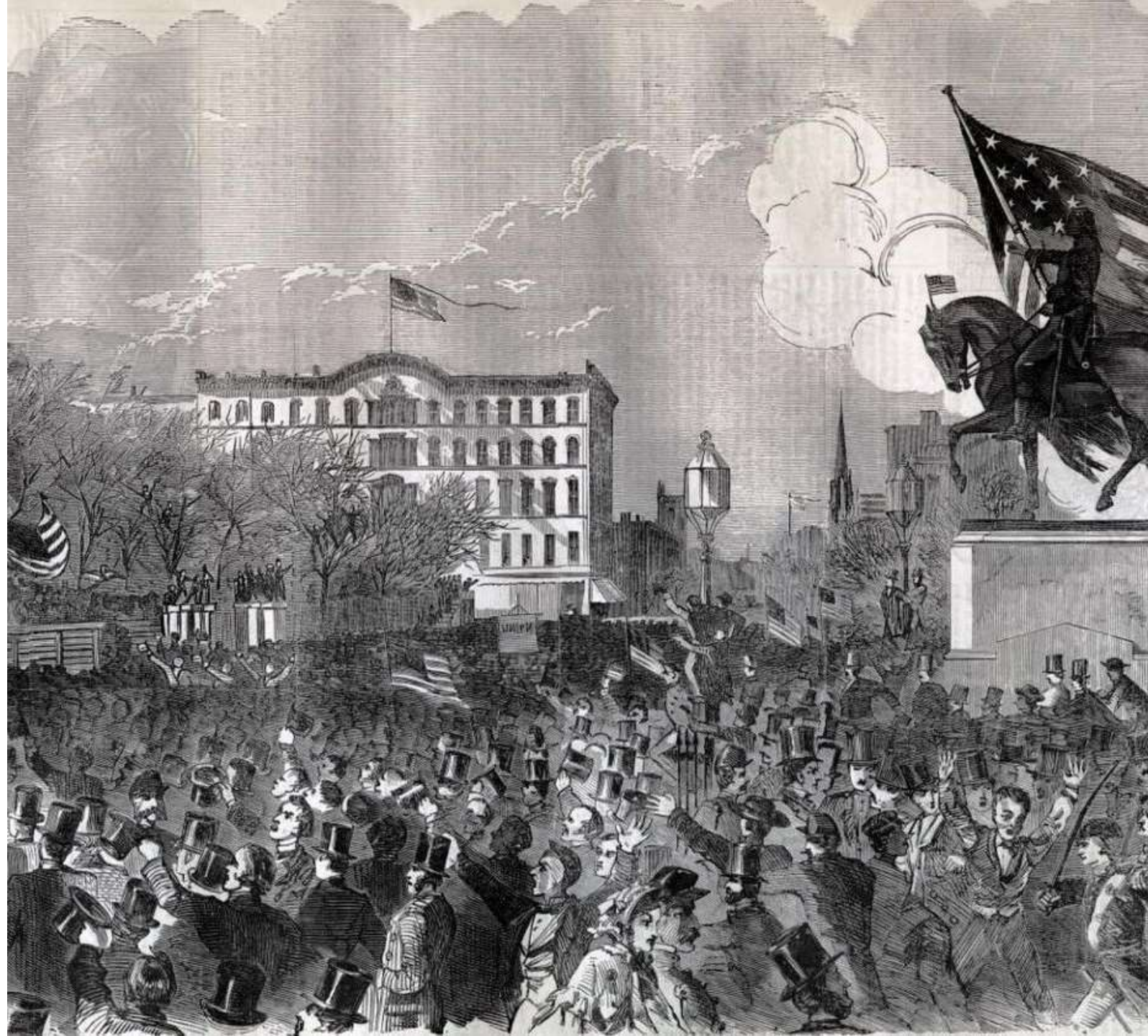
Which of the 2 secret societies is to lead the movement for independence? (A **recurrent** problem)

The American Civil War (1861-1865)

A **historical opportunity** for the Irish-Americans (200 000 joined the Union – mostly - & Confederate armies)

A chance of being recognized as full U.S. citizens

Valuable **military training**





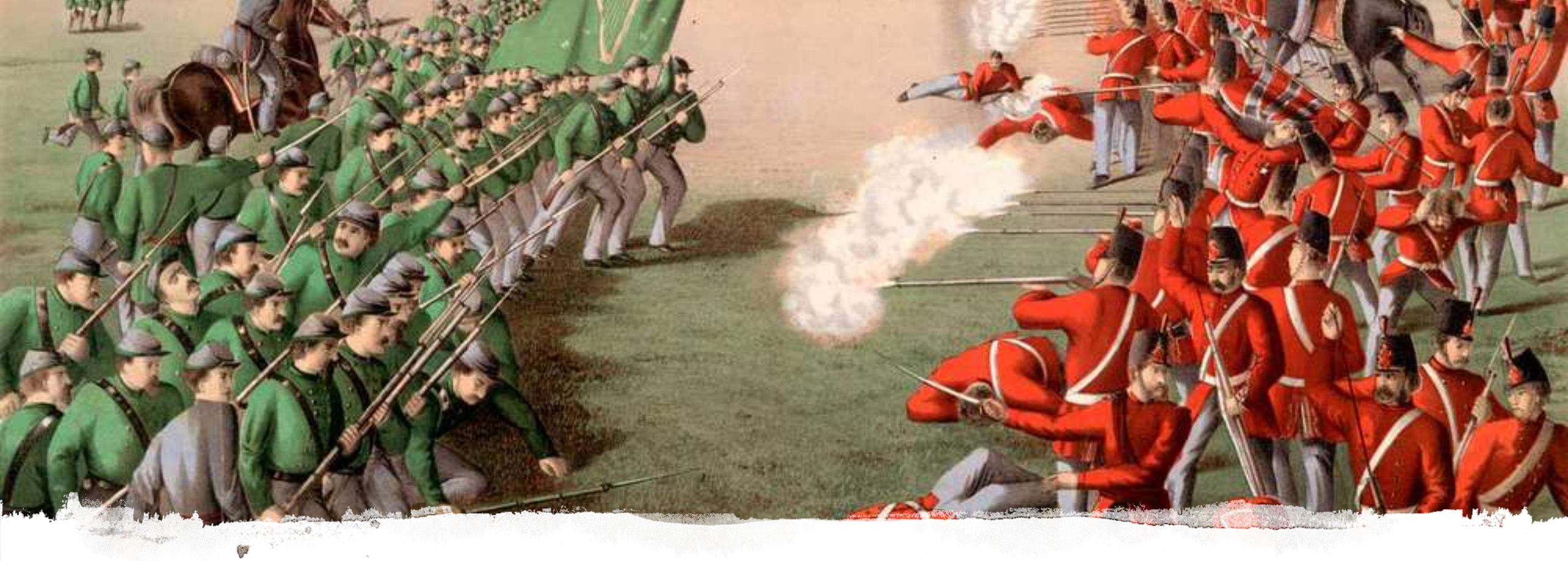
Corcoran Irish Legion: *"Irish, you are going to train to fight your English enemies"*
"The Union, our Country and Ireland for ever"



Post Civil War plans for a rising in
Ireland

Internal divisions: rising in Ireland or expedition
in Canada?

The I.R.B dismantled (British authorities)
James Stevens arrested

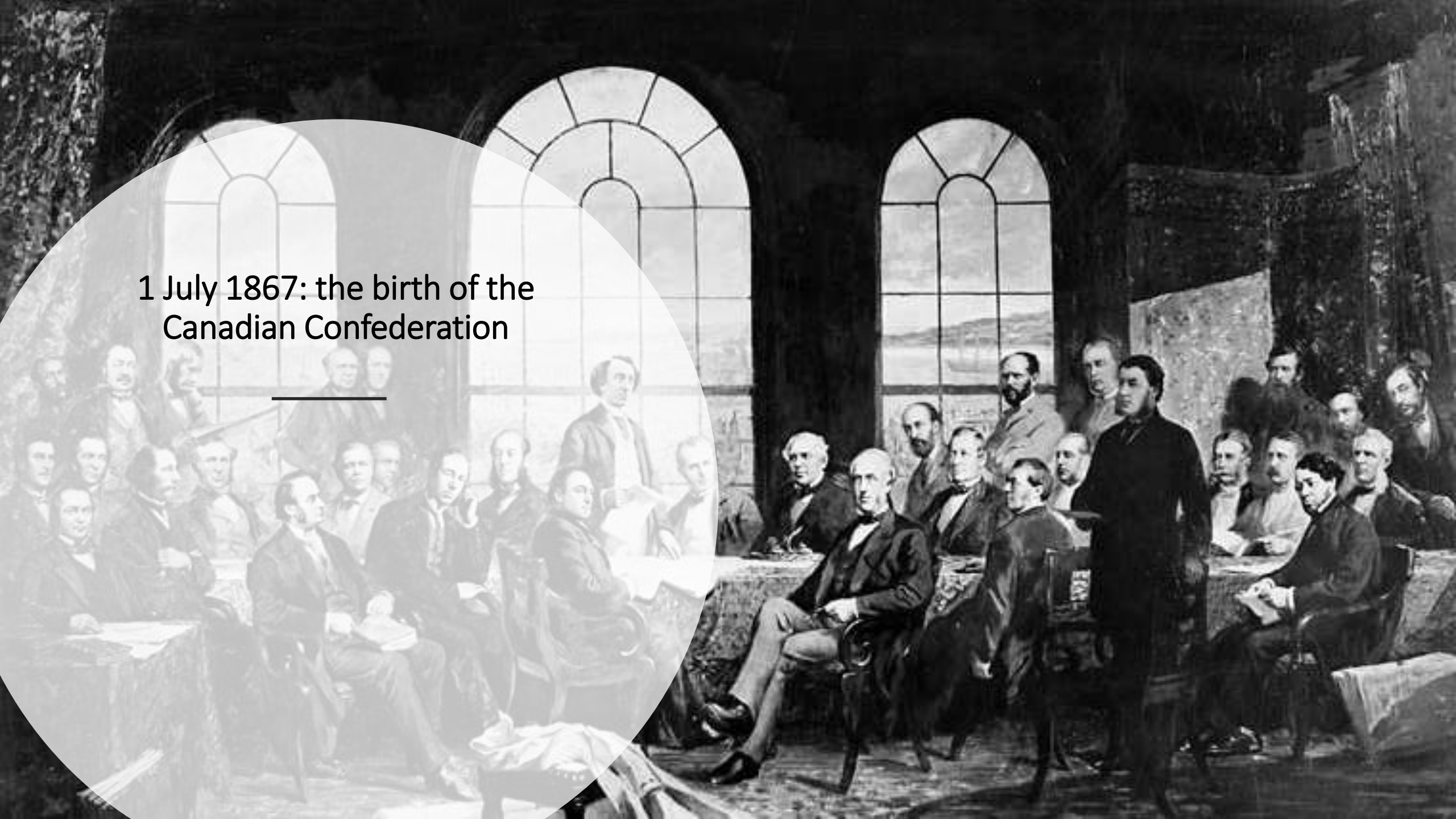


Fenian raids in Canada (1866): to pressure the British into abandoning Ireland by triggering a war with the U.S.

The **Battle of Ridgeway**

U.S. government unsupportive: border closed

1 July 1867: the birth of the
Canadian Confederation



The Irish Rebellion of 1867

The I.R.B controlled by former Civil War Irish-American officers

I.R.B local cells disorganized

Bad weather



The Irish Rebellion of 1867

Proclamation from the “provisional government”: the establishment of a republic (universal suffrage)

Land redistribution

Complete separation Church/State

Hope the U.S. government would pressure the British



A change in tactic

A series of spectacular attacks
(terrorism)

The Clerkenwell explosion (1867)





Liberal Prime Minister Gladstone: *"My mission is to pacify Ireland"*

The 1869 Irish Church Act

the **disestablishment** of the Church of Ireland

The 1870 Irish Land Act

No tenant could be evicted provided he paid his rent on time

Whatever improvements the tenant might have made on the farm to be compensated

To help tenants buy land



A growing federalist movement under the leadership of MP Isaac Butt

A **Home Rule League**: Ireland **political autonomy** within the UK & the **reinstatement** of an **Irish parliament**

Strategy of **obstruction**: the practice of ***filibustering***
Westminster parliament paralyzed

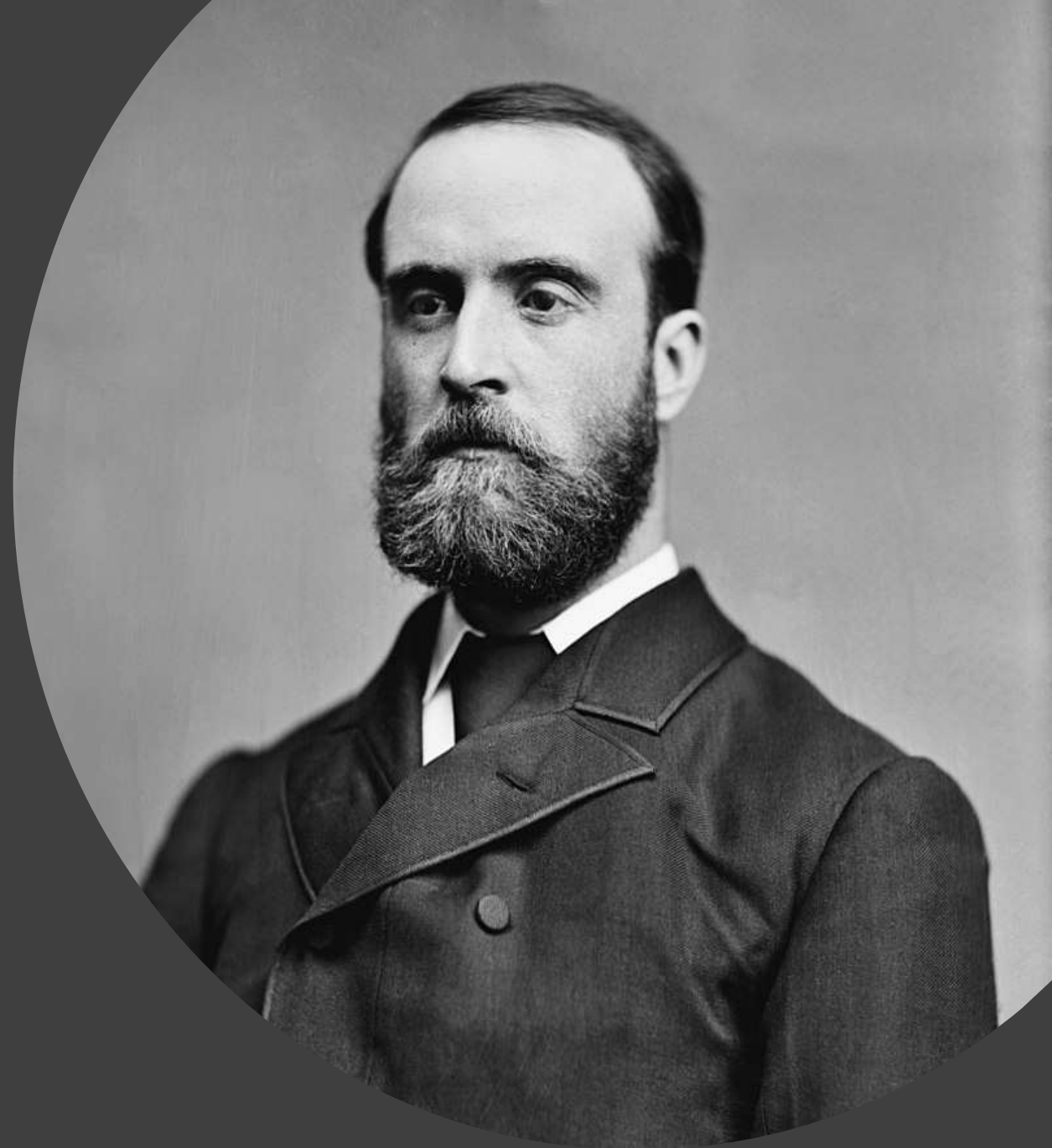
Charles Parnell (*"the uncrowned king of Ireland"*): to promote Irish nationalism without violence

1880: President of the Irish Party (Westminster)

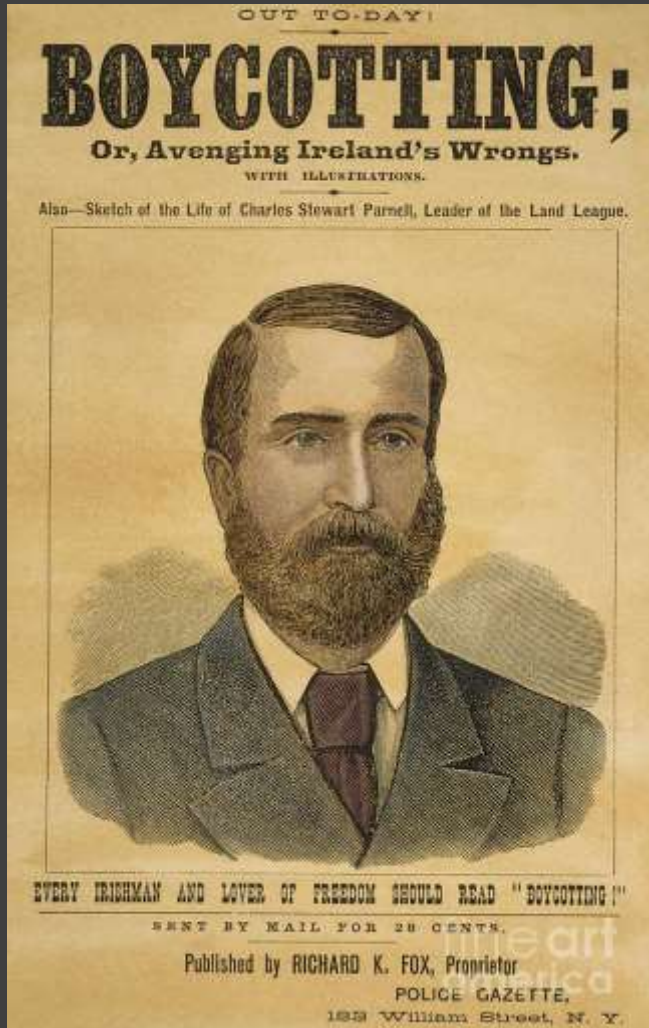
Home rule

Promoting **land reform**

To prevent a new famine



Michael Davitt and the Agrarian League



A new weapon against the landlords (evictions of tenants by increasing rents) & those willing to take over the land: **ostracism (exclusion)**

One of the first victims of ostracism: **Charles Boycott**



Home Rule debated in Parliament

Home Rule opposed by British
political establishment

The **Orange Order** (fraternal order
founded in the late 18th century):
Protestant supremacy in Ireland
must be maintained

Anti-Catholic riots in Belfast





1905-1914: the failure of Home Rule