

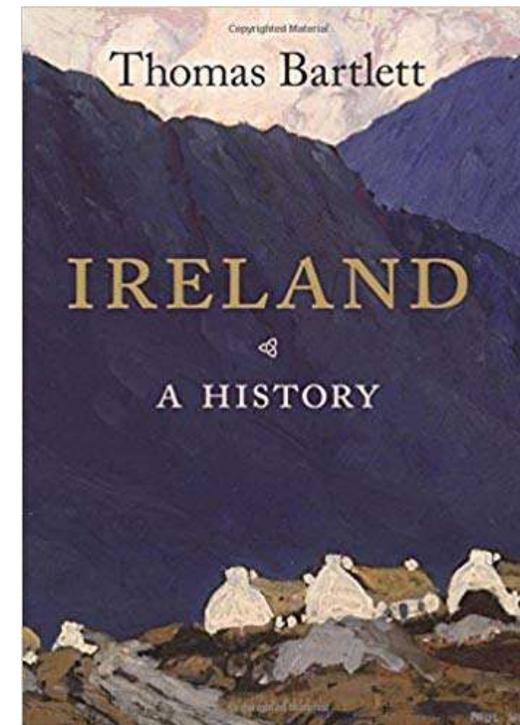
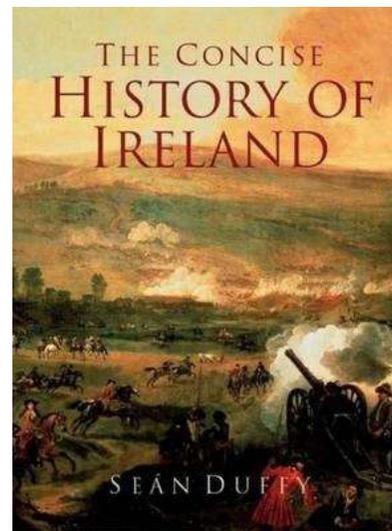


**1800: an imperfect union**

**Ireland: a colony like any other?**

## General works

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# The American & French Revolutions: renewed hope for the Irish



The Irish uprising of 1798: the Parliament  
of Dublin unable to cope



The **union** between the two kingdoms  
seen as necessary



## William Pitt (PM): the solution for Ireland

The establishment of a large Free Trade zone

Free Trade: to encourage British investments in Ireland

Improvement of standards of living

The Irish Protestants to become the majority within the new United Kingdom – No longer opposed to the emancipation of the Catholics



## 1800: the Act of Union

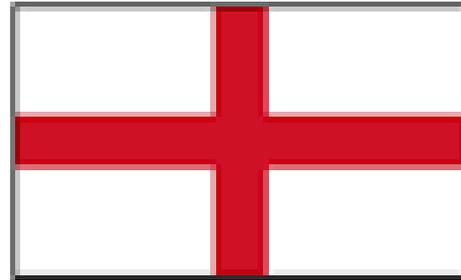
The birth of the “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland”

Ongoing debate

Ireland: a colony or a territory?



A new flag



St. George's Cross  
of England

+



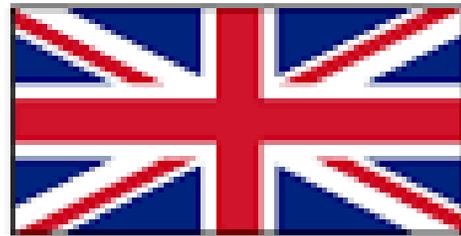
St. Andrew's Cross  
of Scotland

+



St. Patrick's Cross  
of Ireland

=



Union Flag of the UK

17<sup>th</sup> century: massive land confiscations

Most of the land re-distributed to English Protestants

The adoption of « **Penal Laws** »: discriminatory measures against Catholics

18<sup>th</sup> century: the *ascendancy* (Protestant Anglo-Irish aristocracy's domination) in Southern Ireland

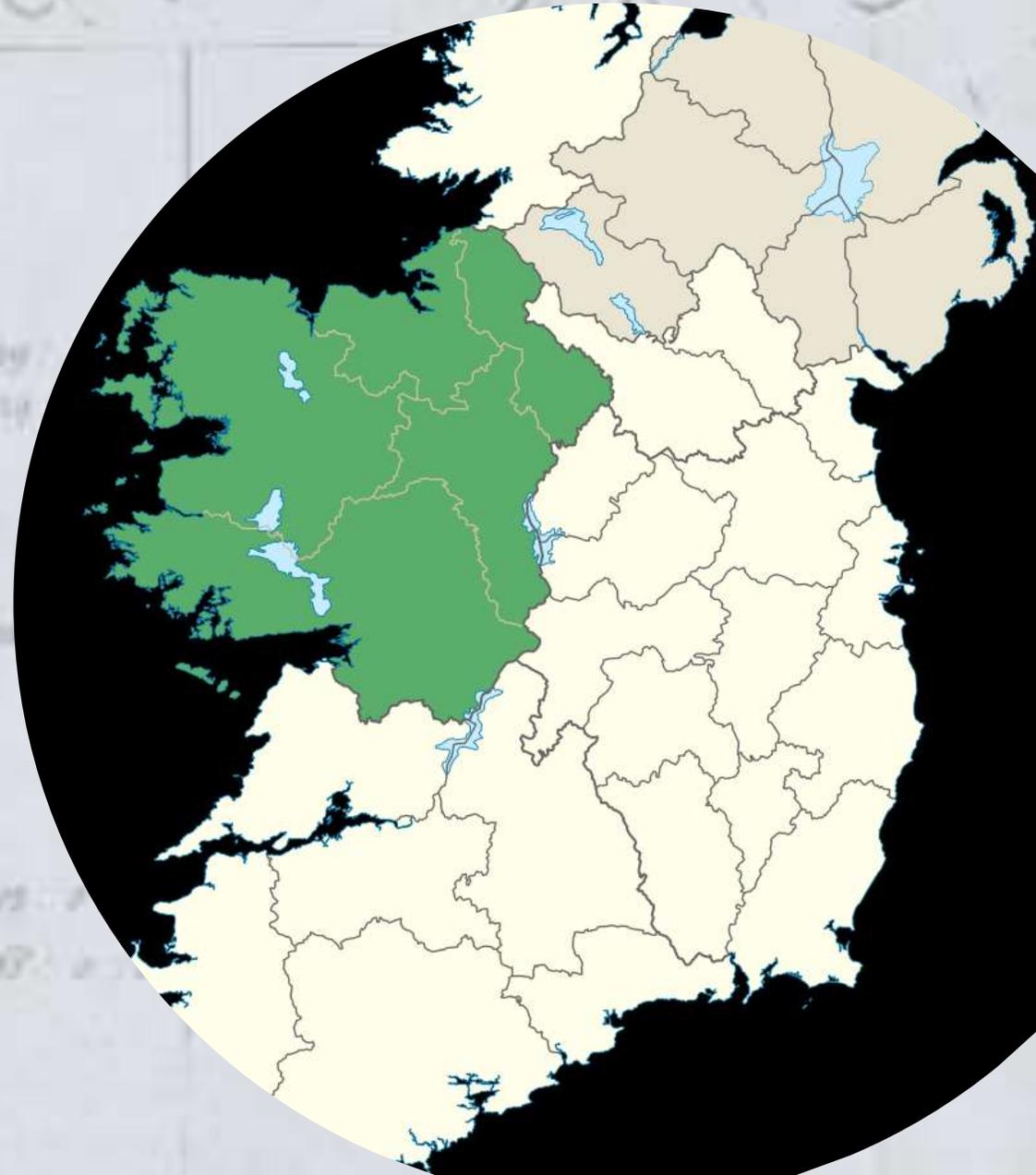


*Killno Parish: County of ...*

**The Act for the Settlement of  
Ireland (1652)**

**Ulster transformed into a loyal Protestant  
province**

**Confiscated Catholic land offered to English &  
Scottish colonists**



Ireland governed from  
London

Parliament of Dublin abolished

The UK ruled from a centralized  
parliament in London

Ireland: a separate entity

The colonial system maintained





King of Great Britain and Ireland

Appoints

**British Government**  
*Home Secretary (Irish Affairs)*

Appoints & controls

**Chief Secretary for Ireland**  
*Real power*

**House of Lords**  
*(32 Irish peers)*

**House of Commons**  
*(100 Irish MPs)*  
*Catholics excluded until 1829*

Controls

**Administrators**  
10 000 civil servants (all Protestants until 1829)

**Lord Lieutenant of Ireland**  
*Viceroy*  
*Role of representation*



**Dublin Castle**  
Seat of British power



**UK Parliament**

## Parliament of Westminster

British laws usually not applicable to Ireland

19<sup>th</sup> century: 187 laws aimed at restricting or suppressing public liberties

*Insurrection Acts*

*Coercion Acts*

*Mutiny Bills*

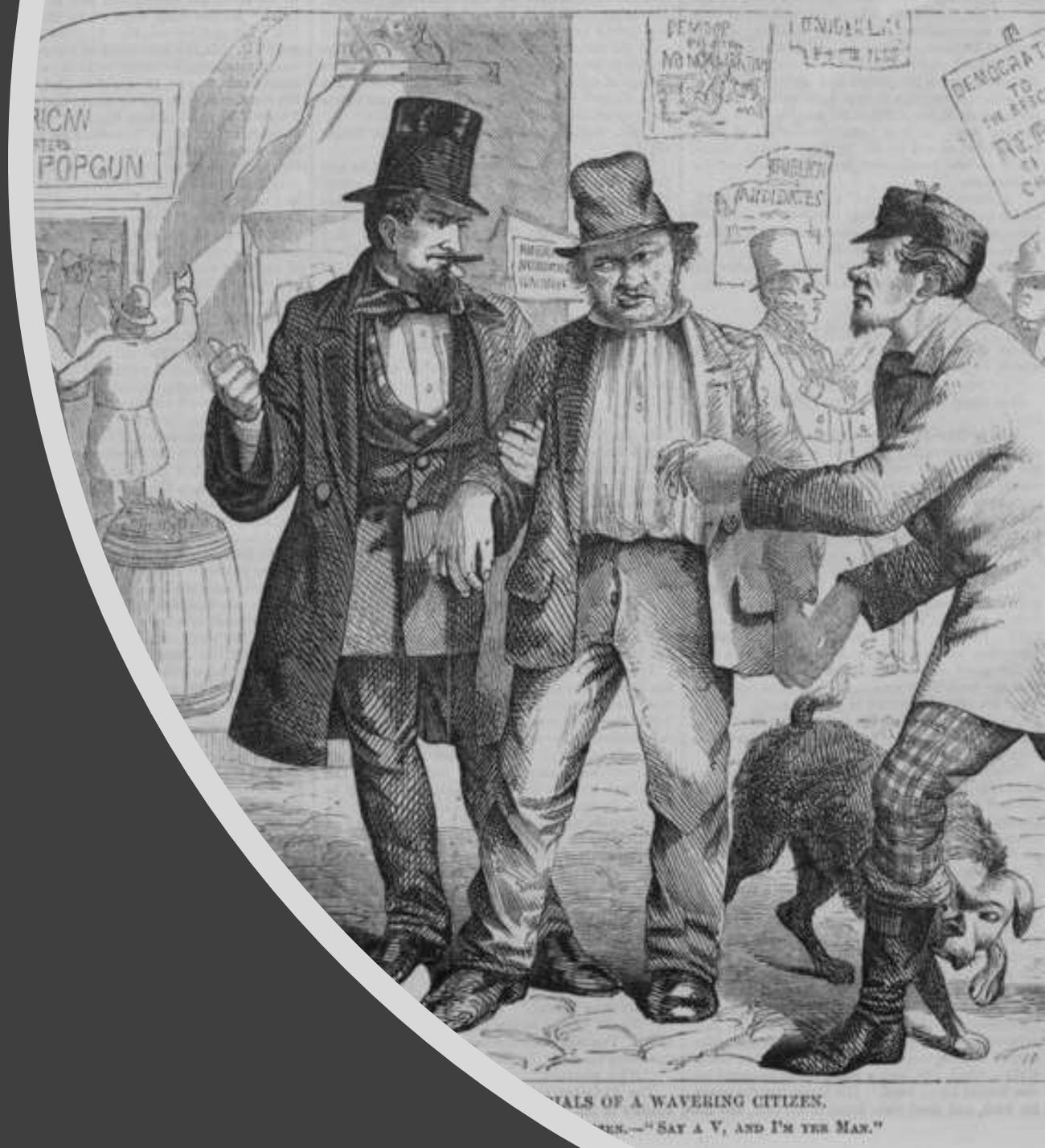


Voting in Ireland prior to 1829: a parody

No secret ballot

Vote for the *landlord* or else...

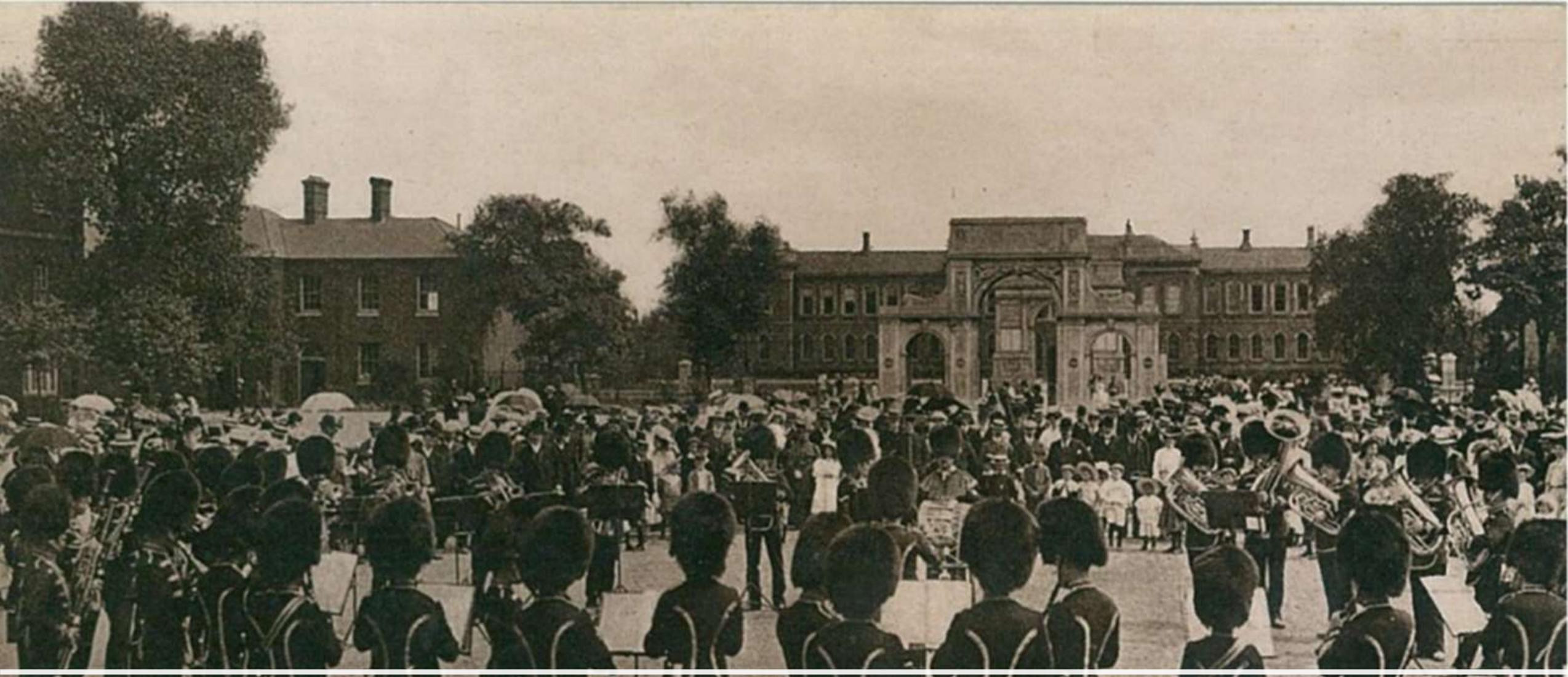
Loathing for the *mere Irish* – No reforms to help Catholics



## The (Protestant) Church of Ireland

A **state institution** financed by a tax payable by all (whatever their religion)





British army in Ireland: 35 000 men



The Royal Irish Constabulary



## The national uprising of 1803

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Robert Emmet: to seize **strategic points** in  
Dublin – Proclamation of a **provisional  
government**

## Oliver Cromwell's effect on Land Ownership in Ireland



## Ireland in the 1820s

In the South: Catholic peasantry controlled by Anglo-Protestant *landlords*

In the North (Ulster): an industrial revolution (textile + shipbuilding) led by the Anglo-Scottish Protestants

Growing gap between the North and the South

## Ulster vs. the rest of Ireland

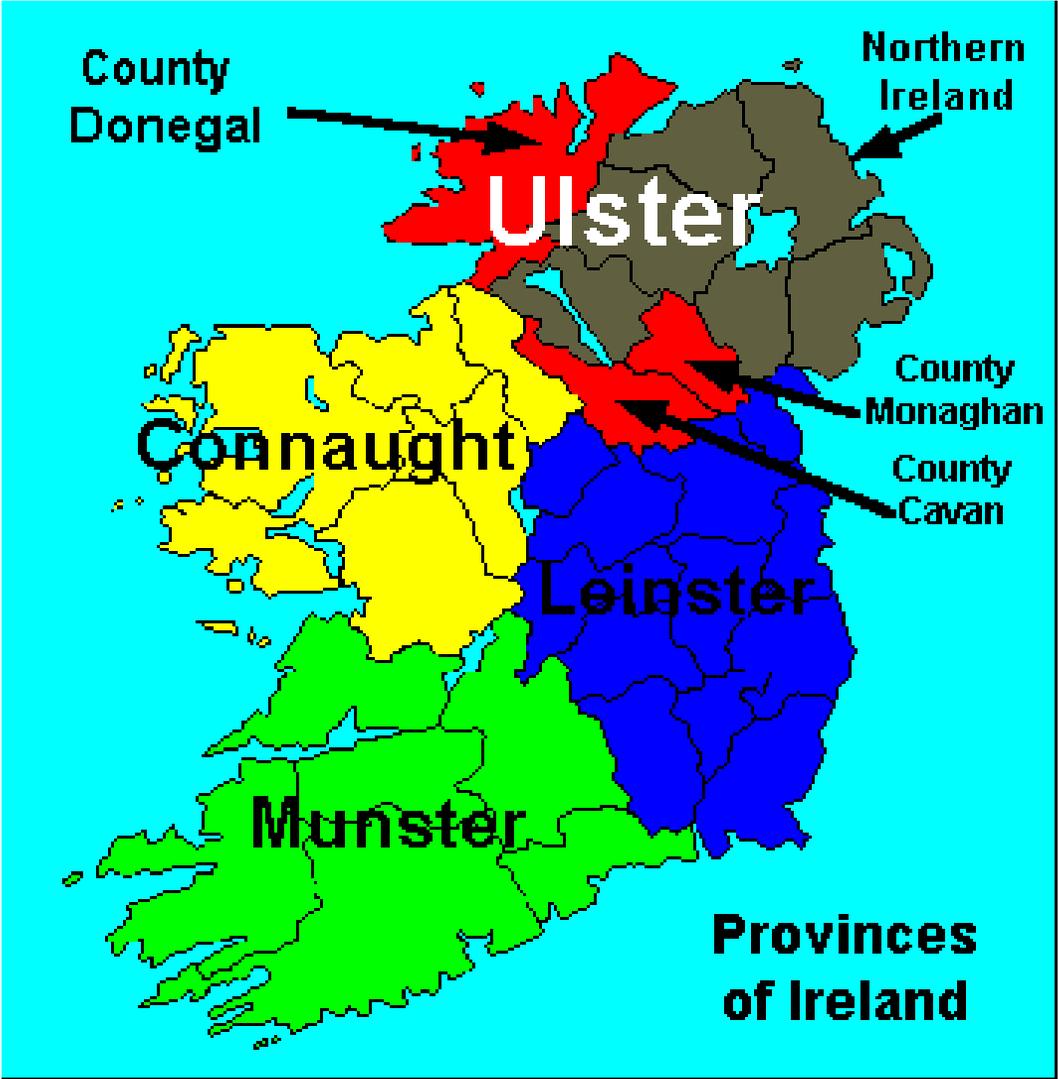
**Muster, Leinster & Connaught:** Protestants =  
the **minority**

1861 census: 327 239 Protestants vs. 3.5 million  
Catholics

**Ulster:** 946 721 Protestants vs. 963 687  
Catholics

Majority of **Dissidents** (Presbyterians,  
Methodists, Baptists, Quakers...)





## Industrial revolution in Ulster

Exceptional **geography**

The port of **Belfast** – Easy communications

Easy access to northern England (English Midlands)





Harland & Wolff (1914): UK's second largest shipyard

## Daniel O'Connell: the « liberator »



The Catholic Association (1823): a popular organization led locally by Catholic priests

*Catholic rent*: voluntary financial contribution

“Papists” able to vote but cannot be elected

Campaigning for Catholic emancipation



1828: O'Connell candidate in a by-election against the official candidate (County of Clare)

Duke of Wellington (PM) & Sir Robert Peel (Home Secretary): **equality** between Protestants & Catholics



1829: the **Act of Emancipation**

All civilian & military jobs open to Catholics (except viceroy)

The mandatory tax payable to the Church of Ireland converted into a **property tax**



Campaign for the **repeal of the Act of Union**

Call for an independent kingdom of Ireland

*“Monster meetings”*

Monster meetings banned by London





The *Young Ireland* movement  
(Thomas David)

The return to Irish traditions, Gaelic  
language & culture

## The Great Famine (1845-1849)

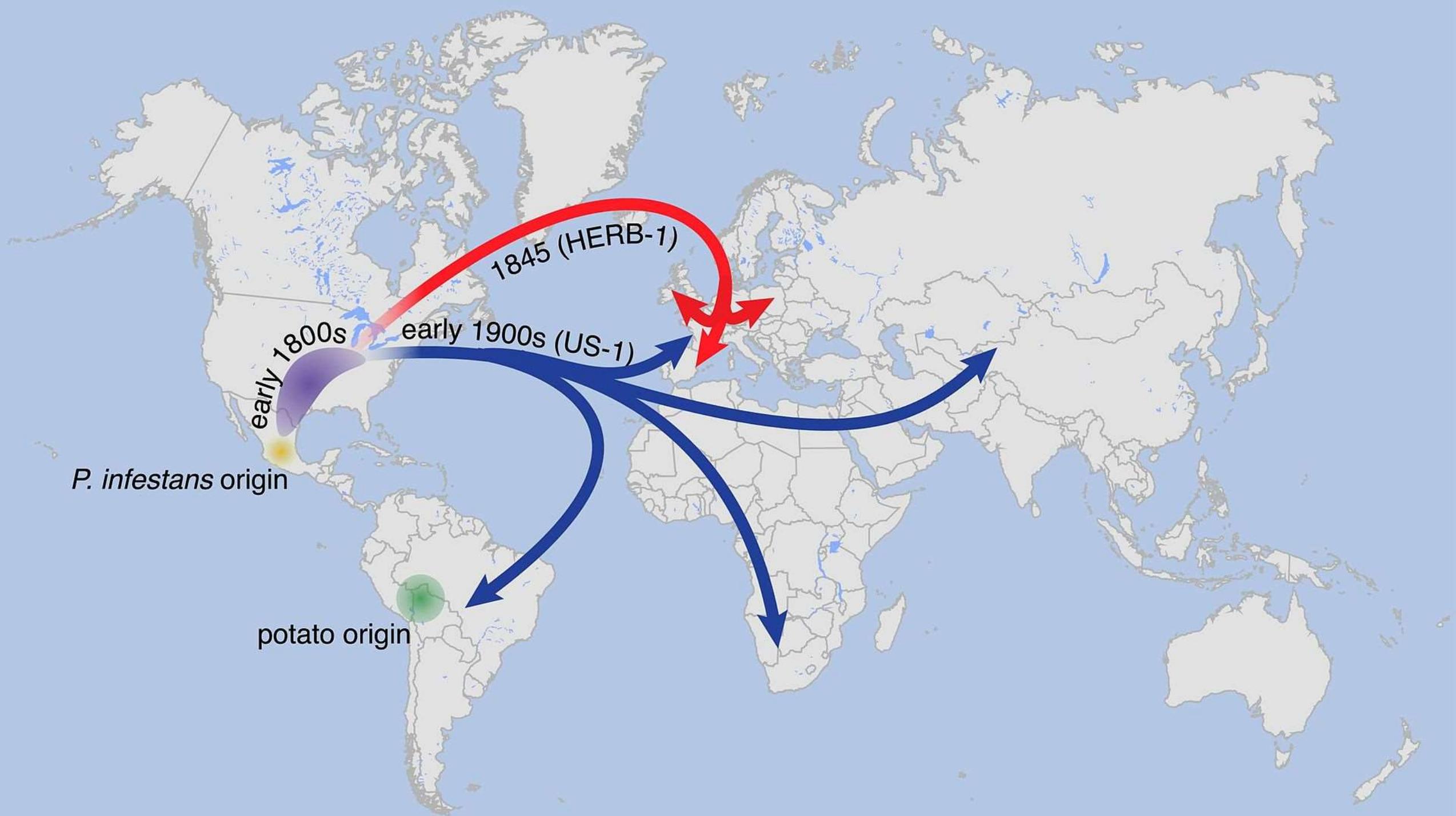
Exceptional demographic growth (population:  
8,175,000 in 1841)

Irish population largely dependent on the land

Lower agricultural prices: priority given to  
meadows

High unemployment





*P. infestans* origin

potato origin

early 1800s

early 1900s (US-1)

1845 (HERB-1)

16<sup>th</sup> century: the introduction of the potato in Ireland

The benefits of the potato:

Slow to spoil

3 times the caloric value of grain

Cheap and easy to grow

Ireland: widespread dependency on the potatoes

Human consumption & feeding livestock (key export to England)





## The potato: a tendency towards crop failure

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Ireland: dependence on only one type of potato –  
The Irish lumper

Water mold (*Phytophthora infestans*) combined with  
rainy/windy weather: devastating effect (2/3 of crop  
destroyed)

1846-1847 crops completely destroyed

Mass starvation & epidemics





## British relief efforts: Conservatives vs. Liberals

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**Robert Peel:** a quick, partially efficient but insufficient response

Importations of corn from the U.S.

Public works

Nothing done to prevent landlords from evicting thousands of starving peasants unable to pay rent

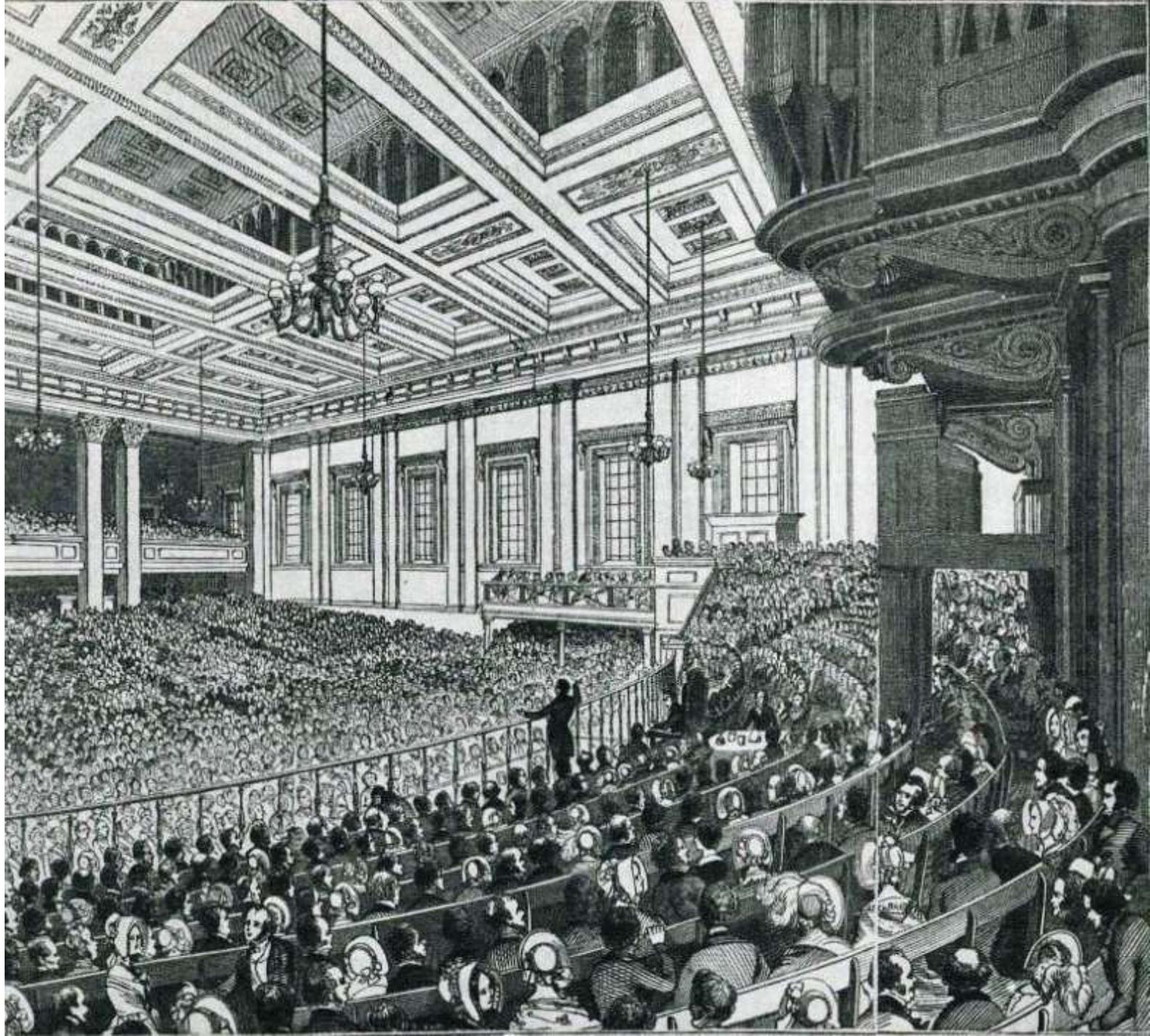
To pay rent, peasants had no choice but to export their production

## The repeal of the Corn Laws (1846)

**Corn Laws:** steep tariffs on imported food and grain (cereals)

**The goal:** to keep grain prices high to favour domestic producers

To make it too expensive to import foreign grain (even during periods of shortage)





## Lord John Russell (1846-1852)

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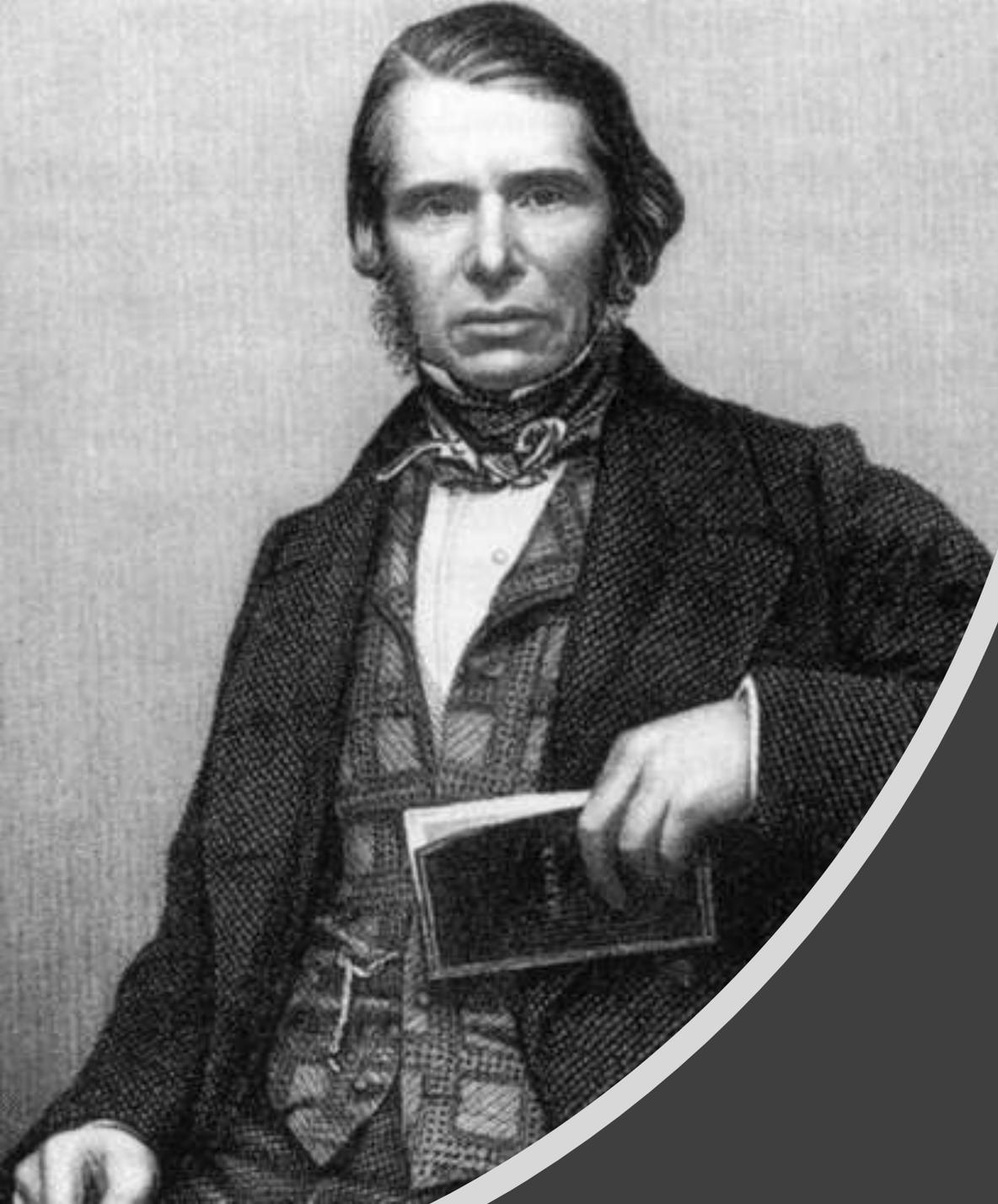
Free trade, free enterprise and *Laissez-faire*

Little to no government intervention (“the people must not get used to government help”)

Poorly managed workhouses and charity homes: squalid centres of disease and death



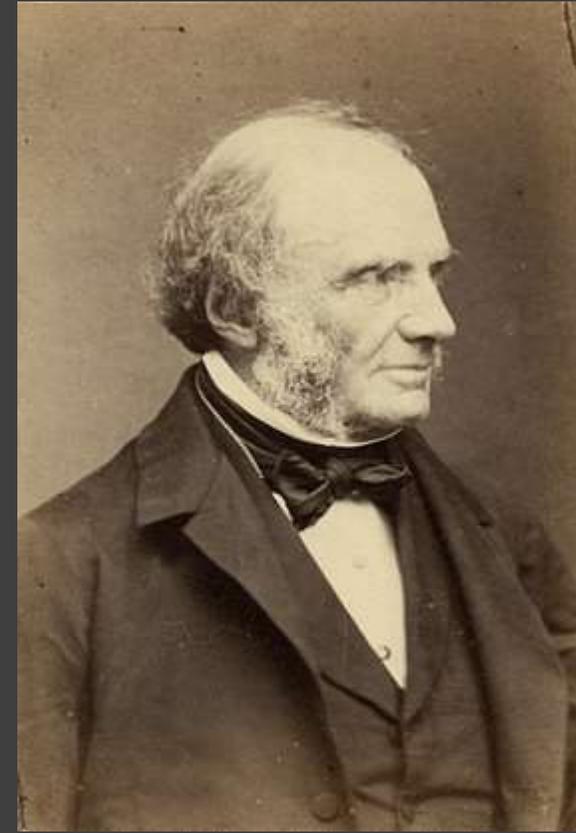
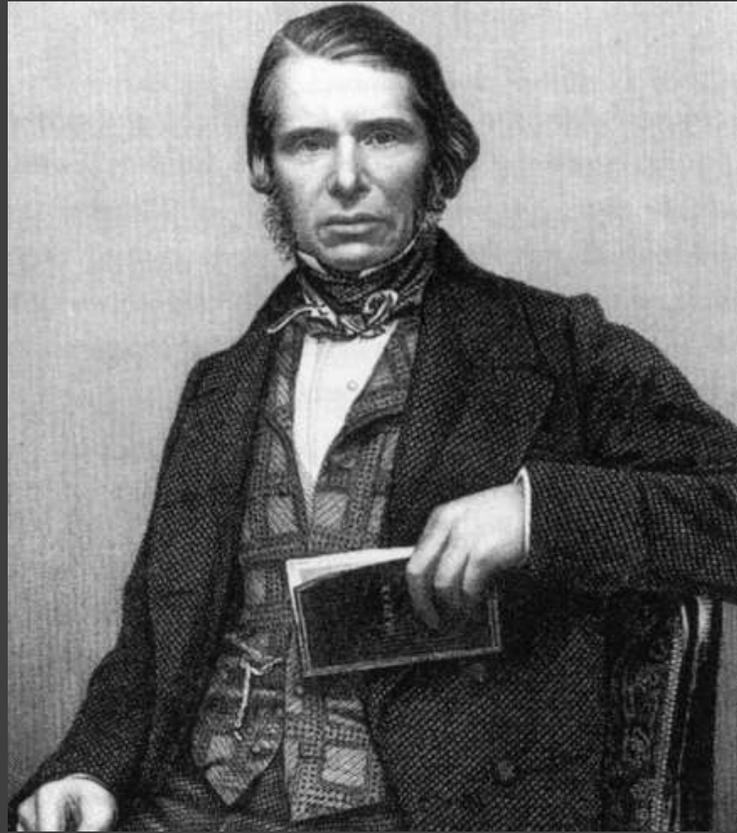
THE IRISH FAMINE—SCENE AT THE GATE OF THE WORK-HOUSE.



Sir Charles Trevelyan (colonial administrator): *“The great ill against which we need to defend ourselves is not physical, it is moral”*

*“This is not famine, this is the arrogant and turbulent trait of the Irish people”*

Blame the *landlords*



7 million British pounds spent by the British government in relief efforts (0.5% of the UK Gross National Product)

London spent 20 million to compensate slave owners in the 1830s – Ireland bore the brunt of the financial effort

# Philanthropy: the British Relief Association

Lionel de Rothschild

Over 15 000 individual donations : too little too late?

(Total of 500 000 pounds)

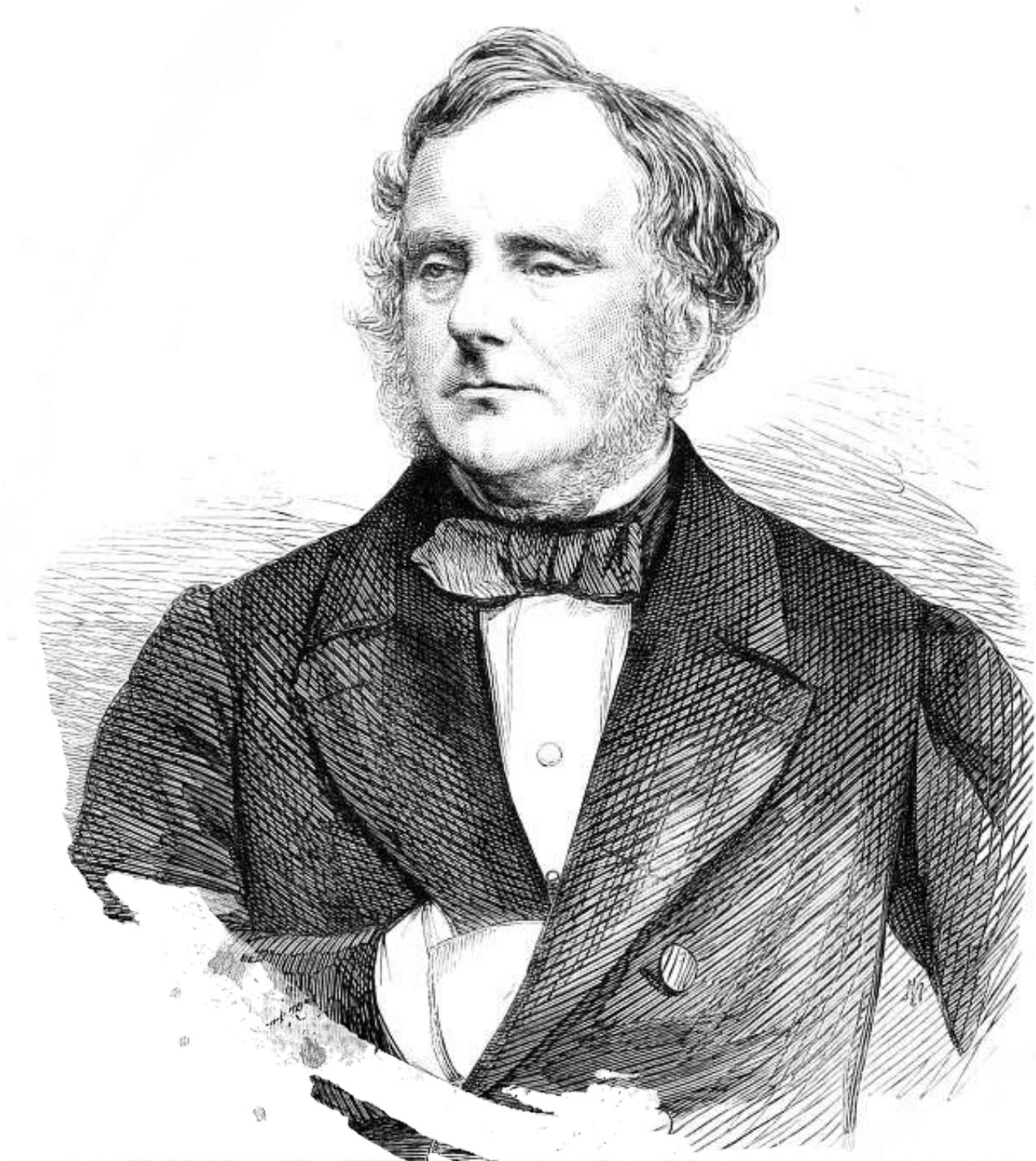


## Arthur Lee Guinness

The majority of *landlords* faced bankruptcy

1847: the **Poor Law Extension Act**

The full cost of the poor in Ireland to fall upon the *landlords*





Queen Victoria's  
visit to Ireland  
(1849)

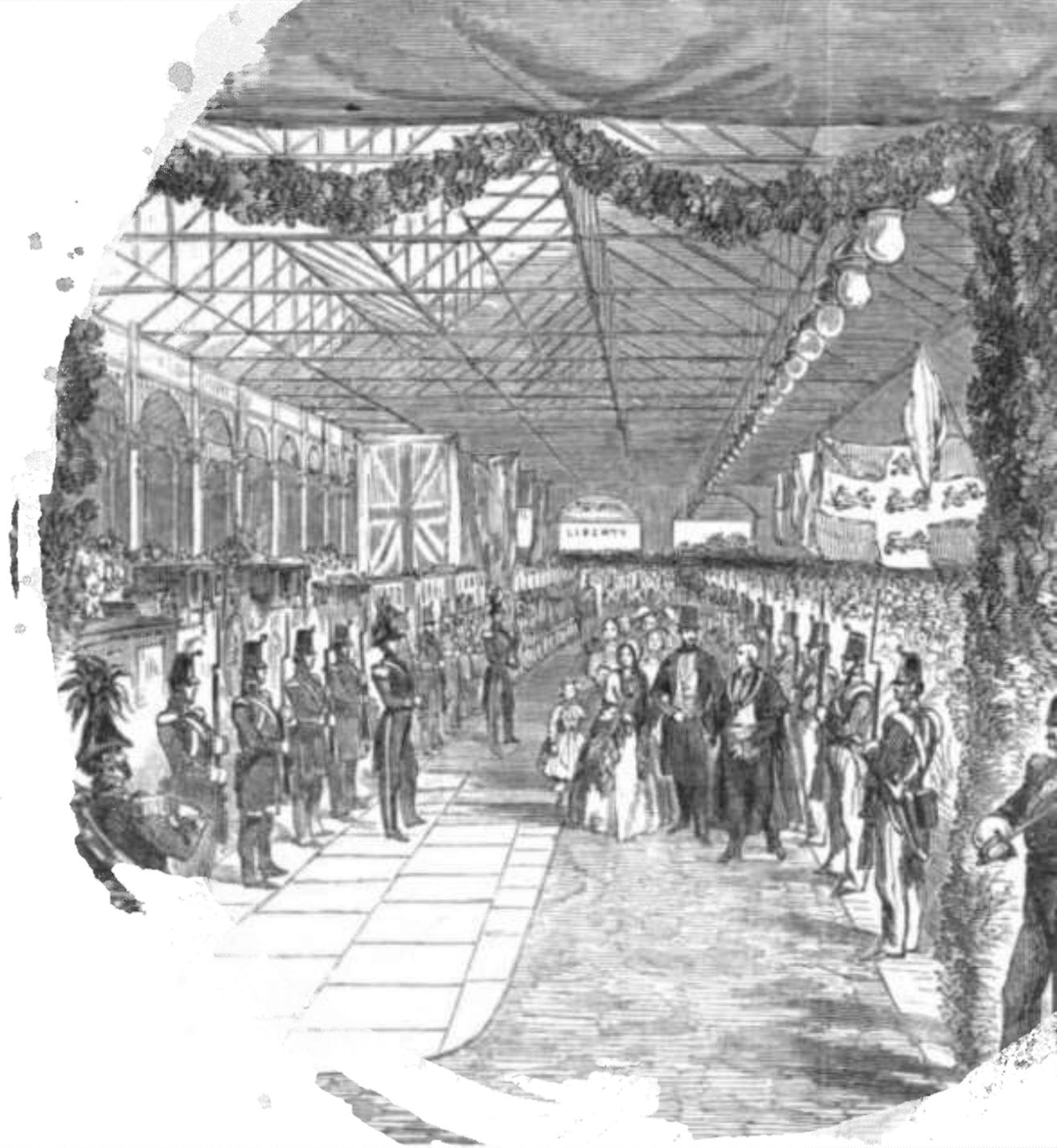
A personal success  
without consequences

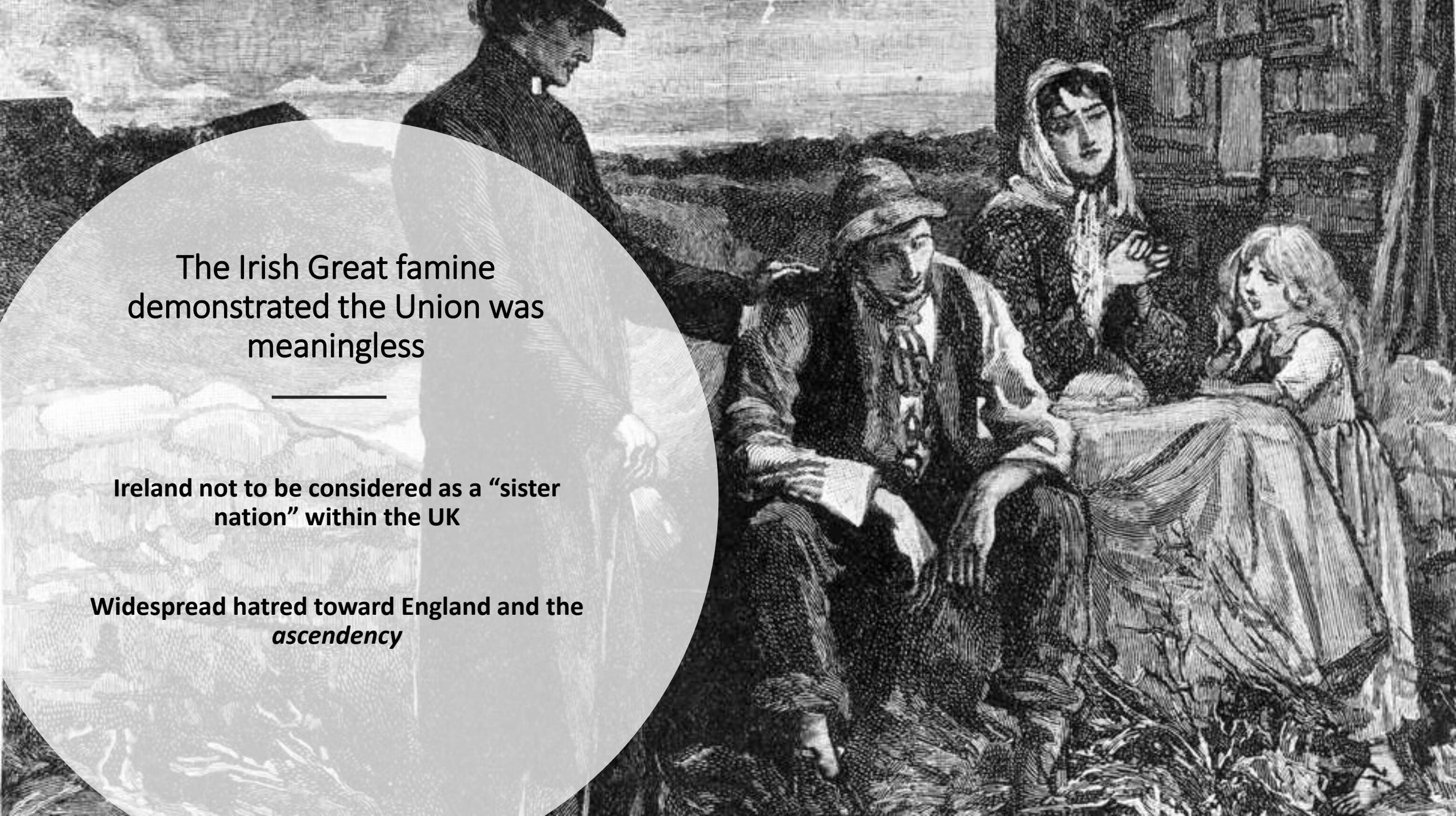
The Great Famine deeply affected the  
**Irish consciousness**

*« The greatest tragedy sustained by a European nation, before the massacre of 6 million of Jews during WWII, was the Great Irish Famine of 1847 »*

The Great Famine gave new impetus to the  
idea of Ireland's independence

No possible agreement or reconciliation  
between Great Britain & Ireland





The Irish Great famine  
demonstrated the Union was  
meaningless

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

Widespread hatred toward England and the  
*ascendancy*



An unprecedented disaster

A « *demographic holocaust* »

4 years of misery and agony

**1 to 1.5 million** Irish died of starvation of disease



1.5 million Irish forced to emigrate

