

—a vastly more numerous class,—have become, in a considerable degree, a sept distinct from the general community ; and in all our large towns there are certain per centages of the population,—unhappily ever-increasing per centages,—that, darkened in mind and embruted in sentiment, are widely recognised as emphatically the dangerous classes of the community. And let us remember, that we are witnessing in these instances no new thing in the history of the species : every period since that of the vagabond Cain has had its waifs and stragglers, who fell behind in the general march. In circumstances such as obtained in the earlier ages of the human family, all the existing nomades and paupers of our country would have passed into distinct races of men. For in the course of a few generations their forms and complexions would begin to tell of the self-induced degradation that had taken place in their minds ; and in a few ages more they would have become permanent varieties of the species. There are cases in which not more than from two to three centuries have been found sufficient thoroughly to alter the original physiognomy of a race. “On the plantation of Ulster in 1611, and afterwards, on the success of the British against the rebels in 1641 and 1689,” says a shrewd writer of the present day, himself an Irishman, “great multitudes of the native Irish were driven from Armagh and the south of Down, into the mountainous tract extending from the Barony of Fleurs eastward to the sea ; on the other side of the kingdom the same race were exposed to the worst effects of hunger and ignorance, the two great brutalizers of the human race. The descendants of these exiles are now distinguished physically by great degradation. They are remarkable for open projecting mouths, with prominent teeth and exposed gums ; and their advancing cheek-bones and depressed noses bear barbarism on their very front. In Sligo and northern Mayo the consequences of the two centuries of degradation and hard-