

Portobello House.

Sat. Oct. 22, '81.

My dear Father

I enclose a terse paragraph from Macaulay, showing one way in which it is possible to deal with the Irish and to restore material prosperity to their country. I do not say it is a way I would recommend. When the un-called-for interference of England with the Irish in the past now brings her face to face with serious difficulty, it seems rather hard that they should be called upon to expiate by their extermination a mistake and an injustice of which they were the victims to begin with. In Cromwell's time the case was different. The Irish had recently heard the Gospel, when all the world heard it, at the Reformation; and it seemed less unreasonable for a man of Cromwell's inflexible temper to conclude that as they had

rejected the only means by which, as he well knew, the people could be rendered quiet & peaceable, and their country prosperous, they should accept the alternative of giving up their country to those who had shown their wisdom by making choice of the "one thing needful". This paragraph might be worth sending to the "Witness", as it would now be of some interest, as a historical statement.

I should hardly have said in my last letter, that Macaulay does not do justice to the Puritans. It seems to me now that he describes them accurately and impartially, but without understanding them, through lack of sympathy ^{with} for them.

We intend moving to Waverley on Monday.

Your affectionate son,

William.

William
Oct/81

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