

## The Colonisation of Ireland (years 1670-1680)

As seen by economist William Petty

Let the *Irish* know, That there are, ever were, and will be men discontented with their present Conditions in *England*, and ready for any Exploit and Change, more than are sufficient to quell any Insurrection they can make and abide by.

Wherefore, declining all Military means of settling and securing *Ireland* in peace and Plenty, what we offer shall tend to the transmuting one People into the other, and the thorough union of Interests upon natural and lasting Principles [...]

There are among the 600 M. above-mentioned of the poor *Irish*, not above 20 M. of unmarried marriageable Women; nor would above two thousand *per Ann.* grow and become such. Wherefore if  $\frac{1}{2}$  the said Women were in one year, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the next transported into *England*, and disposed of one to each Parish, and as many *English* brought back and married to the *Irish*, as would improve their Dwelling but to an House and Garden of 3£. value, the whole Work of natural Transmutation and Union would in 4 or 5 years be accomplished.<sup>1</sup>

The charge of making the exchange would not be 20,000 l. *per Ann.* which is about 6 Weeks Pay of the present or late Armies in *Ireland*.

Extract from William Petty, *Œuvres économiques*, Paris, 1905, vol. II, p. 176-177.

The Economic Writings of Sir William Petty Ed. Charles Henry Hull available online courtesy of The Online Library of Liberty : The Political Anatomy of Ireland Chap. V.

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