Ireland Before The Famine, 1798-1848

Gearoid O Tuathaigh

The population of Ireland 1821: 6,802,000 1831: 7,767,000 1841: 8,175,000 Dependence on the potato Increased dependence from the early 18th century onwards On the eve of the famine the potato was the sole food of about one-third of the Irish people and it was a key component in the diet of a far larger number. Asenath Nicholson Annals of the Famine in Ireland, in 1847, 1848 and 1849 The morning was unusually sunny but the horrors of that day were inferior to none ever witnessed. The road was rough, and we constantly were meeting pale, meagre-looking men, who were on their way from the mountains to break stones and pile them mountain high for the paltry compensation of a pound of meal a day.