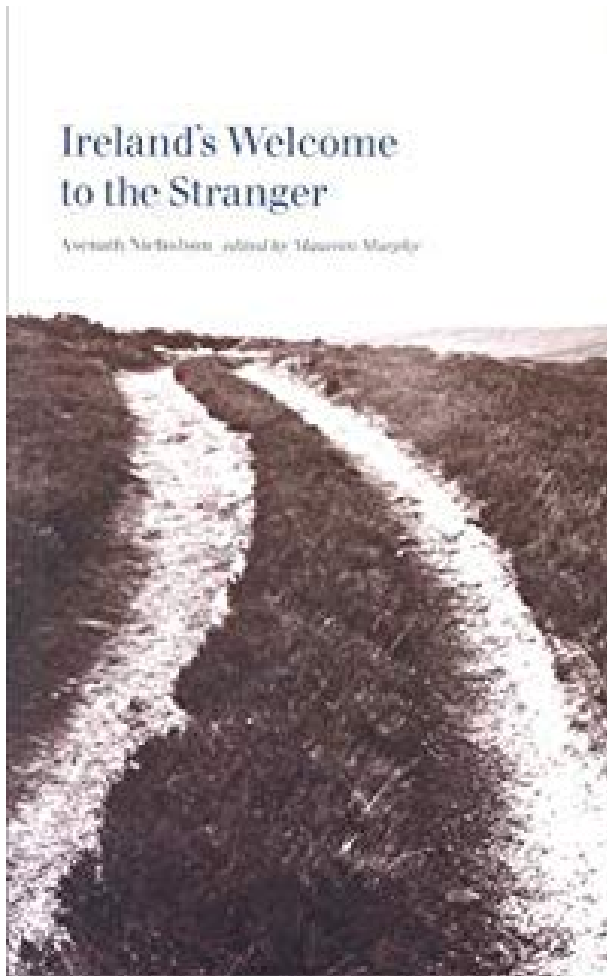


Ireland's Welcome to the Stranger



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In May 1844, the American educator and reformer Asenath Nicholson set out from New York on a 15-month visit to Ireland to investigate the condition of the Irish poor. On the eve of the Great Famine, Nicholson travelled on foot through the west and south-west of Ireland, reading the Bible to the local people and sharing their hospitality. Nicholson describes a rural society struggling with poverty and chronic unemployment who received their American visitor with generosity and kindness. Nicholson's account offers a glimpse of Ireland before the Great Hunger of 1845-52.