

of Heaven. The wicked will be mingled with the just, the cockle will continue to spring up amongst the good grain. But in this time of harvest all these evils will be remedied. The existence of the sinner in this life is a monument of the Divine Mercy, and a continual subject of trial and merit to the elect of God. 'Do not therefore, Dearly Beloved, lose your confidence which hath a great reward; for patience is necessary for you, that doing the will of God, you may receive the promise.' (Heb. x. 35, 36.) Remember that our Blessed Redeemer has himself prepared us for this trial of our faith. 'It must needs be that scandals come; but nevertheless woe to that man by whom the scandal cometh.' (Matt. xviii. 7.) 'Let us then hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, (for he is faithful that hath promised) and let us consider one another to provoke unto charity and good works. Not forsaking our assembly as some are accustomed, but comforting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approach,' (Heb. x. 23, 55,) that blessed Day when 'the Son of man shall send his Angels, and they shall gather out of his Kingdom all scandals.' (Matt. xiii. 41.)

I receive with no ordinary feelings of gratification, the spontaneous, affectionate, and most complimentary address which you have just presented me. The unbought and invaluable Testimonial of the feelings of a whole people must be a subject of pure delight and honorable pride to any individual, no matter how exalted his station. But whilst I rejoice at this noble determination to shield a Dignitary of your Church from unmerited obloquy, I cannot but again deplore the unhappy causes which produced it, and which have so long afflicted the generous spirited and zealous Catholics of Halifax.

I am now—thank God for the first time in my life—forced into public and painful notoriety, and wantonly charged with crimes which my soul abhors.

From my earliest years I have found it more congenial to my feelings and my tastes to lead a life of peaceful obscurity, and though called to the active and labourious discharge of the du-

ties of the sacred ministry at the early age of twenty three, I was most anxious to pass noiselessly through the world, attending solely to my arduous profession, and humbly endeavouring to render to my fellow creatures all the assistance in my power. For upwards of fourteen years I mingled with all classes in my native country, with every shade of political and religious opinion. During that period of unexampled excitement, I confined myself to the peaceful discharge of my spiritual duties, and never stepped beyond the limits of the sanctuary. I always felt that in times of public excitement it was the peculiar duty of the Minister of God, to walk amongst his people as an Angel of Peace and good will, pouring oil upon the troubled waters, reflecting the bright charities of the Gospel, enforcing the Divine precept of fraternal love, reminding Christians of their common 'Father who is in heaven,' (Matt. vi. 9.)—and teaching all mankind that none of the fading objects of this transitory life should ever separate those for whose love, redemption and example, the blood of a God was poured forth.

Do not, however, suppose for a moment, that I was insensible to the sufferings of my native land. Cold indeed must be that heart which would not melt into compassion at the sight of her bleeding wounds! No one but the Irish priest can adequately conceive the multitudinous forms of Irish misery. No one should feel more keenly the unmerited wrongs of his afflicted people. The demands on his sympathies are so numerous and intense, that without the Divine succour it would be impossible for human nature to support them. Let me add that if ever the condition of a country justified the interference of a Clergy in political strife, that country is Ireland.

In such a country I continued to discharge the duties of a Priest and a citizen, in a manner more suited to my inclinations, and by which I conscientiously believed my patriotism would be more efficient. The abundant harvest which I reaped, still further stimulated my humble endeavours. In every district where I resided, I was honoured with the confidence and support of the inhabitants, and permit me to declare