

chiefs were honored by the king of England with brilliant titles on the one hand and they loved their chieftains; on the other their chieftains had accepted the abbey lands belonging by right to the ministers of religion and the nation loved its priests. Yet there was no hesitation. Instead of loud acclamation and welcome greetings the false Irish chieftains found on their return that the people had cast them off and gathered around new chieftains. They all died miserably for having violated the religious feelings of the people. And still the race stands jealous of its religion. Parnell was high in the people's love and veneration, and great hopes were built on his Home Rule policy. Had he not the whole of Ireland at his back, and yet, when he was about to reap the fruits of his long labor, when he was about to confer an inestimable boon upon Ireland, the nation would not accept it from his hands, but turned away from him as it had turned away from O'Neill of old. He had outraged the moral feelings of the nation.

This has been Ireland's way of acting towards her priests and her religion. Is there a nation in Europe that could not learn something from these examples? The French people especially would do well to have imitated and to imitate Ireland. Their history is conspicuous for the frequency with which they allowed their kings to encroach upon the rights of the Catholic religion. In fact Louis XIV. had the whole French clergy, and of course the people, from 1682 to 1692 upholding him in opposition to the See of Rome. Previous to that time the nation had been the cause of the famous Western Schism, for this schism in the words of Darras "*se perpetua sous l'influence de la politique française.*" A hundred years ago France not so much as protested against the indignities heaped upon Pius VII. by Napoleon Bonaparte. To-day France and Italy are governed by Socialists and Freemasons vowed to destroy the Church. Surely the land of St. Louis could learn a valuable lesson from Irish history. What love can a people have for their priesthood when they consent to laws which force seminarians to take their place in the rank and file and spend a year of military service?

At the beginning of the last century (1813) the Irish gave to the world a remarkable proof of their jealousy of State interference