

the English of the Pale were always few in comparison with the natives, and heresy had been adopted by only a small body." To stamp it out "the sentence of the bishop, the decree of excommunication pronounced from the foot of the altar, was all that was required." Thus it is Erin's glory never to have produced an heresiarch. Can the same be said of any other nation? At an early period the eastern countries were ravaged by heresies. Persia, Asia Minor, Syria, Africa, were all in succession invaded by frightful heresies which were soon—too soon, alas! to make such rapid strides in the countries of Western Europe. France, from the year 1148 to 1228 was the stronghold of the Albigenses, a sect so powerful and so vigorous that Pope Innocent III. enjoined upon the faithful to take up arms to crush it. The heresy of Jansenius found in France some of its most ardent supporters. Spain and Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Poland, history tells us, at some time or other found themselves ravaged by heretical teachings, whilst heresy became the State religion of England, Sweden, Denmark, and some provinces of Germany. Am I claiming too much when I assert that Ireland's fidelity to the Catholic Church is unparalleled in the history of the world?

The Irish race has ever shown a love of preference for the Church. The priest has ever held first place in the affections of Irish people. As Father Thébaud beautifully says "from the first preaching of Christianity among them, all earthly dignities have paled before the heavenly honors of the priesthood." To have their son a priest offering up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has ever been the greatest happiness of Irish mothers—a happiness for which they would refuse no sacrifice. And it was their best son, their most gifted son, whom they set apart for the service of God. This setting of the Church's claims above those of the State is characteristic of the race. In the twelfth century McMurrough, king of Leinster, was expelled from his kingdom by his subjects whose feelings of morality his scandalous elopement had glaringly outraged. In the sixteenth century Henry VIII conferred patents of nobility on the Irish chieftains O'Neill, O'Donnell, O'Brian, Burke and Fitzpatrick, and bestowed upon them lands of which he had robbed the Dominican and Franciscan Friars in Ireland. Now came the test of Ireland's Catholicity. What would she do? Her