

*CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN IRELAND.**

IRELAND'S claim to a Catholic University, State-assisted, has been repeatedly pressed upon the British Government; but not until recent years has any attention been paid to the demand. Protestants are beginning to realize the injustice of the system of Irish education, or, to speak more correctly, are beginning to advocate a change in the system whose injustice to Catholics they must ere now have recognized. Hitherto, it would have been injudicious and dangerous for a Minister of the Cabinet to attempt to take the matter in hand, as, owing to the intolerance of the times, it would most probably have led to the wreck of his party; but public opinion has of late undergone a change, so much so that the present government is confident of support in any action it may think fit to take for the bettering of Catholic education.

Undoubtedly Catholics are at a very great disadvantage with regard to university education. Protestant institutions are richly endowed, whereas Catholics receive no aid whatever. But in the face of this inequality Catholic colleges have outstripped their wealthy rivals, and now "bear the palm alone."

There are at present in Ireland two universities, Trinity College, or Dublin University, founded in 1593, and the Royal University, founded

in 1880. The former of these can lay claim to being one of the greatest educational establishments of the world. It is the Alma Mater of many eminent men of the present day, as well as of many others who have long since received their summons "to join the innumerable caravan that moves to that mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber in the silent halls of death."

Catholics are practically excluded from this university. It is true that its examinations, and even its lectures are open to all; but, owing to the Protestant teaching, and the English and anti-national spirit of its student-body, Irish Catholics do not and cannot avail themselves of its educational advantages.

The Royal University is, as it were, one step towards the complete emancipation of Catholics with regard to education. Some fifty years ago the Government, feeling in duty bound to provide in some measure for the education of Catholics and Dissenters, founded the Queen's University. This institution was to consist of the three teaching colleges of Belfast, Cork, and Galway, which were to be open to all creeds, and were to be absolutely non-sectarian. The colleges were made a yearly allowance of \$105,000. Against this system of education, in which all religious teaching was excluded, Catholics protested. However, their protest was unheeded.

Nothing was now left for Catholics to do but to establish a university of their own. A college was

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