

and brother-Protestants of Cootchill and its vicinity—(cheers)—an honor has been done me in asking me to second the resolution which has been already brought before you by the last speaker. I believe I speak the sentiments of every true Protestant when I say that the present agitation in support of the Irish Church does not mean that our ecclesiastical laws are not susceptible of improvement. Far from it. But what it does mean is that the Protestants of Ireland—of this kingdom—never will consent to see the revenues of our Church torn from us simply because the Roman Catholic hierarchy try to make out what they never can—viz., that our Church is an alien Church, and that theirs is the ancient Church of Ireland. (Applause.) Sir, nothing could be more false than such a statement. Long before Popery was heard of in this land, the great St. Patrick taught and preached the pure religion of the Bible. He is termed the patron saint of Ireland, and no Protestant has any right to object to that term, because, to all intents and purposes, he was our Protestant patron saint. He lived in the beginning of the fifth century, when the word Protestant was unknown. And why? Because there was no Popery to protest against; but had St. Patrick lived 700 years later, when, in the year 1172, Popery was first established in Ireland, no man who has read history can doubt but that he would have been a Protestant to the backbone. We claim that the Gospel which he preached, and the Scriptures which he read and taught, were identical

with our religion and our Scriptures of the present day. Therefore, when any ignoramus tells you that the Roman Catholic religion was the ancient religion of Ireland, you can tell him with perfect truth that he is talking stuff and nonsense. As regards our ecclesiastical laws, nothing human is perfect, and never will be; therefore we readily admit that improvements may be made in them. But there is one thing that is perfect—one thing that no man can improve upon—and that is the Word of God, the Holy Bible. Because our human laws are imperfect, is that any reason why the preaching of the Bible should be torn away from us? Yet nothing less than this is aimed at by Gladstone, Manning, Paul Cullen, and company. (Cheers.) I believe Mr. Gladstone to be a puppet in the hands of Cardinal Manning. The Church in Ireland is the same Church which he supported not many years ago. She has undergone no change; but Gladstone has, and now he is ready to betray our noble Church. For what? Simply for a bribe—even as Judas Iscariot betrayed our Lord. What about Cardinal Manning—who is he? I'll tell you who he is. He is an apostate clergyman of the Church of England, and, like all apostates, he is ready to out-Herod Herod, so as to please his new master the Pope. By his insidious eloquence, he gained so many converts amongst the English by his preaching in Rome that, the moment Cardinal Wiseman died, he was shoved into his shoes. Who is Paul Cullen? Who is he but a bigot of the first water, promoted