

reen, im-
 ory were antiquity itself is a proof of truth, the conservative English
 collar of gave up the old faith for the new; whilst the Irish—in other
 with their things so regardless of antiquity—died and shed their blood for
 lingar, in the old religion, rather than turn for one instant to the strange
 fix before imposture of the new.

its em- But none of these purely natural explanations can explain
 rien, ans- the supernatural fact, that a whole people preferred, for ten
 when the generations, confiscation, exile and death, rather than surrender
 ng hither their faith; and the true reason lies in the all-important circum-
 Hath the stance, that the religion of the Irish people was the true re-
 ings said, ligion of Jesus Christ, bringing not only light to the intelli-
 Then tell gence, but grace and strength to the heart and will of the
 e putteth nation. The light of their divine faith showed them the hol-
 minor, the lowness and fallacy of Protestantism, in which they recognized
 aster and an outrage upon common sense and reason, as well as upon
 aint, and God; and the grace of their holy Catholic religion enabled
 national them to suffer and die in its defence. Here it is that we re-
 ne people cognize the Providence of God in the preaching of St. Patrick.

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assailed precisely those points of Catholic teaching which he
 y. I do had engraved most deeply on the mind and heart of Ireland, as
 its anti- if he had anticipated the trial and prepared for it. Attach-
 re by no ment to the Holy See was more than a sentiment; it was a pas-
 s worthy sion in the Irish bosom.

th conn- Through good report and evil report, Ireland was always
 Ireland faithful to Peter's chair; and it is a curious fact, that, when
 lay-pole the Christian world was confused by the pretensions of Anti-
 univer- podes, and all the nations of Christendom were, at one time or
 ic times, other, led astray, so as to acknowledge some false pretender.
 are still Ireland, with an instinct truly supernatural, never failed to
 age, al- discover, to proclaim, and to obey the true pontiff. She is the
 e early only Catholic nation that never was, for a moment separated
 service from Peter, nor mistaken in her allegiance to him. Her prayer,
 where her obedience, her love, were the sure inheritance of each
 succeeding Pope, from Celestine, who sent Saint Patrick to