

have run apart, and the performer would have had a severe fall if the leaders of the Opposition had not kindly enabled him to give a safe vote under cover of the majority which they made up, and thus to redeem his personal pledge to his Orangemen, while his *Bleus* were propitiated by victory. The upshot is that the Lodges have tried their strength against the Catholic vote in a pitched battle, and the Catholic vote has prevailed. An audience of French Catholics hailed with applauding shouts the victory of their cause. Before the same sinister divinity both Parties bow equally low, and the public man or journalist who does not bow to it is worth something to the country. In Ireland two local factions used on a particular day in each year to fight for the possession of a stone to which some traditional mystery attached; and the magistrates having on one occasion, to prevent the fight, sunk the stone in a river, the factions combined to fish it up and then fought for it as usual. Such a stone is Orange Incorporation, which can have no importance in itself, but serves as an object for the faction fight. The result is decisive, and there can be no doubt that *Bleu* influence rules the hour. The same thing was manifest in the Letellier case, where the Premier evidently yielded unwillingly to *Bleu* pressure. He is not so much a despot as an indispensable link, like Lord Liverpool, between sections which would otherwise fall asunder. The hour of adversity is the time for self-examination. What does the Orangeman conceive to be the aim of his society, and the reason for its existence on this Continent? Its aim and the reason for its existence in Ireland at the end of the seventeenth century are plain enough: and if it was the bulwark of Ascendancy we must in justice to it remember that in those unhappy days the choice lay between dominating and being crushed, perhaps exterminated; for peace on a footing of equality between the two religions in the time of Louis XIV. was out of the question. When we denounce the penal laws, let us not forget the Revocation of the Edict, the *Autos-da-fé*, which were still going on, the attempt upon British liberty in which James II. was backed by an Irish army, or the Catholic Parliament of Dublin under Tyrconnel with its sweeping proscription of Protestants, and that unparalleled Act