

they be true, then again I repeat—the old Church is the Church of Ireland; the new Church is the Church of Rome. Such is the history—such the distinctive character of the ancient Irish Church.

PATRIOTISM—A COMMON MELTING GROUND.

My reverend brethren, I have ventured this day into the field of controversy, not, God knoweth, for controversy's sake. My real motive for dealing with this question has been a very different one. But chiefly it has been my earnest desire, by recalling our minds this day to the position which, as Irishmen and as Irish Churchmen, we occupy in our fatherland, to kindle, or when kindled to strengthen, in each heart a flame of true Christian patriotism.

PATRIOTISM ABOVE SELF-INTEREST.

Let patriotism take the place of self-interest. We are, of course, not only allowed, we are bound to assert and defend our own rights; and they who weakly yield them up to the aggressor are the enemies of the common good. But there are times when the welfare of the country demands a sacrifice—a sacrifice, it may be, of ease, or money, or fondly-cherished homes. Let it be known to all men that a love of country is the master-principle which constrains us—in other words, that in the presence of patriotism self interest is prepared to take a lower place.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

But, let us bring these thoughts to bear more immediately on the requirements of this present time. The minds of many of our fellow-countrymen are just now agitated by a desire for certain legislative changes, which (if I am to judge from the unanimous voice of our General Synod) are regarded by Irish Churchmen generally as pregnant with disastrous results. Now, regarding the present state of disquietude, not as partisans, but as ministers of Christ, we are bound, I think, to ask ourselves, in the sight of God, a serious question. In what spirit, and in what words should we approach those who differ from us on the subject? Are we to approach them as enemies and aliens? Let us be loyal, each of us, to our own convictions, and frankly make them known. Let us strive, if need be, by honest arguments to win others to what we believe to be truth. But let us not forget meanwhile that we have one God and Father of all, one Saviour, one Sanctifier, and let us remember too that we have one fatherland?

THE QUESTION OF THE DAY—STRANGE FALLACIES.

But if we are to grapple with the exigencies of the present crisis we must go further than this. "Fellow-countrymen," we may say, let us now take our stand on this common meeting place of patriotism, and let us reason together as to the special questions which are even now awaiting our decision. You are told by your advisers that Ireland needs a separate Legislature, in order that she may become a nation. Here is an appeal to your nationality. Let us see how much it is worth. Is not England a nation as distinguished from Scotland and Ireland; and yet she has no separate Legislature of her own. Is it not with Ireland even as with her? Both have an Imperial nationality as portions of the British Empire, and each has a separate national existence as well. But, again, you are told that you are now governed by England, and that a separate Legislature is necessary to free you from that yoke. It is not,