

eration of the victor. Whether right or wrong, never was there a people who fought so gallantly and so challenged the admiration of the world, as the South in the late civil war. Within three short years four or five hundred thousand of her chivalry and her manhood were hurled into bloody graves, and what is more lamentable, all this blood, instead of serving, has, I fear, only destroyed the cause for which it was poured out in oceans.

With more or less disparity in the amount of the contending forces, the result would be inevitably the same in Ireland or Nova Scotia, or in any other country where the weaker would commit itself to an unequal contest, even though the experiment were tried a thousand times over. As to the question whether Ireland or England is the weaker, there can be but one opinion. In mere point of numbers, England is to Ireland as twenty-five millions to five millions; in point of war materials and organization, she is in the proportion of a million to almost nothing; and as to that first great motive power and essential of all war—money—which in modern warfare must prevail, she is as a hundred pounds to a dollar. If we had fifty millions of men in Ireland, and that we were comparatively poor as we are now, we should first turn to industry, and devote perhaps a whole century to the accumulation of wealth, before we could have the faintest hope of success against such boundless odds. It is the want of wealth that at the present moment threatens the national existence of Italy, Austria, and the Ottoman Empire, with armies and navies at their command, and a population at least five or six times as large as that of Ireland. If during the late rebellion the North had not boundless wealth to organize and keep up a mighty army and navy, and depended only on mere numbers of population, her ill-assorted ranks, and her unpaid and starving legions, would be still north of the Potomac, with her enemies in front unsubdued. Great Britain herself, with a population of over thirty millions, but without wealth, could not hold her position among nations for a single week.

Why, it will be asked, in a Catholic Church, and on a sacred occasion like the present, enter into these war statistics and political disquisitions, and thereby diverge from the sub-