

two clear and palpable objects in this threatened law. The first is, to insult, degrade, and annihilate conventional life; and the second is, to take the children of the poor faithful Irish from the religious training of these purely Catholic establishments (hear, hear). When we look through other countries and see the gross vice that pollutes their soil; when we see the poisonings, the suicides, the patricide, the matricide, the fratricide, and the thrilling unnatural crimes which cover other people, like the slime on the track of a snake, no wonder England should wish to extinguish our religious convents, which stand in such brilliant contrast with their own moral degradation (hear and cheer). These convents are scattered through England like stars in the blue firmament; they are islands of light in the moral ocean, and many a soul is protected from the perils of this world, is saved from shipwreck, and finds safety and happiness from the secure retreat of these unerring and peaceful habitations (cheers). They stand in the same relation to the Catholic Church as the blossom to the tree; they add beauty to the solidity of faith, and exhibit the abundant fruit of the branches which abide the trunk; they clothe the children of the poor in the precious ornaments of modesty and virtue, and like a refreshing morning dew upon the new born flower, they cherish the growth, call forth the beauty, and mature the superiority of all the tender virtues and delicate proprieties which make up the unrivalled aggregate of female Catholic perfection (prolonged cheering). They are the female missionaries of the Pope; they form their own sex to the precepts of the gospel with the same science as the professor of theology teaches his class; their training reaches the mother, wife, sister, daughter, and pervades the entire better half of creation; so they make the fireside the seat of domestic bliss, and they teach the married woman to be the living seminary where Christianity and love of country are drunk in fresh from the Irish heart; they teach half our race true Catholic principles, and they govern all Catholic society, and to them may be attributed our love of country, our fidelity to religion, and our hatred of oppression (applause). Fellow-countrymen, will you permit a filthy official to enter their closet, whenever a filthy magistrate may grant a lying warrant of insulting search for a nun detained by force in their enclosure? Answer me—will you (loud cries of no, never)? Fellow-countrymen, will you stand by quietly while a filthy English official will brand your sisters and your daughters with the English slander of living in a brothel?—answer me—will you (cheers, and cries of no, no, never, never)? Fellow-countrymen, will you ever have confidence in a ministry where the Speaker assured the whole world, that to designate the ladies of Ireland and England as the inmates of a brothel, is no violation of English courtesy?—answer me—will you (we shall die first)? Fellow-countrymen, answer me candidly—answer me like men; understand me, and tell me again, are you prepared to agree with Drummond and the Speaker of the House of Commons (according to the newspapers), if the Sisters of Charity in Stephen's-green live in a brothel? Is George's-hill a brothel? Is Rathfarnham a brothel? Is the convent in Baggot-street a brothel? And I ask the men of talented Cork, brave Waterford, independent Clonmel, patriotic Kilkenny, invincible Limerick, honest Wexford, Catholic Galway, and zealous Mullingar—are the convents of their sisters, nieces, daughters, relatives—all, all brothels [At the conclusion of this sentence the uncontrolled indignation of the meeting was expressed in the strongest possible manner.] Fellow-countrymen, if you bear these insults on the most virtuous and unoffending of our race and name, you deserve to be branded with the disgrace and shame of a nation of cowards (hear, hear). And if this bill should pass the House of Lords and receive the royal signature, I tell you that my loyalty during the remainder of my life will be a difficult task, and not a pleasing duty (hear and cheer). My allegiance will be on my lips, constitutionally, but never, oh! never, shall it gain access to my heart (loud cheers). If the Queen soil her royal fingers by endorsing the slander of Drummond, and the decision of the Speaker, away with all confidence in England (hear, hear, and great cheering). Our maidens shall never again meet her at the shore; they shall never wave chaplets to welcome their royal mistress; the shore shall no more hear the voice of national jubilee; the Irish waters that wash our harbors shall no longer dance in buoyancy, as they bear on the giddy wave the royal yacht; the Wicklow mountains shall never again return the wild echo of the Irish heart (hear and cheer). Oh! no; we shall, on the appearance of royalty in Ireland, cover our faces in mourning; our streets shall be silent and our windows closed, and, buried in the stillness of national indignation and shame, we shall sigh for the free country where virtue is rewarded, where innocence is protected, where modesty is encouraged, where obedience to law is applauded, where woman is not insulted, and where the constitution is not made the odious instrument of unmanly indecency (prolonged and enthusiastic applause). Fellow-countrymen, there is one thing necessary in order to defeat the old serpent, and that is, constitutional combination amongst ourselves. If the right arm of Ireland be engaged against the left—if our national force be divided, we want the strength and the unity of action necessary for a great national effort; but let there be but one national mind, one national heart, one national concentrated action, and the national frame never, never can be reduced to national weakness (loud cheers). I have never belonged to any political association, and, therefore, I am a disinterested adviser; hence I would presume to advise all parties to forgive and forget all the past (hear, hear). I am a peacemaker, and you are all equally dear to me, will you, therefore, permit me to collect the scattered sections, and let us have a united central expression of political opinion [loud cheers]? For once in my life I will implore you to follow the example of Satan [laughter]; and

act "in firm concord." Give me 500,000 young Irishmen, obedient to the law—not violating the shadow of a law—having no secret signs or words—loyal young men, according to the laws of the country—let them present a petition to the Queen, such as I shall dictate, and I tell you she will never give the royal assent to the infamous Drummond slander [hear, hear, and cheer]. I shall be the chaplain of this society, if its continuance be found necessary, and I undertake to say, that Ireland can never be entirely enslaved [enthusiastic applause]. I have an insuperable objection to be engaged in political strife: this department belongs to the laity by social right; but there is an office which I shall gladly undertake: I shall be the historian to your clubs, and, as far as my humble capabilities will go, I shall always be found at my post, in defending the interests of my faith, and in maintaining the liberties of my country. The rev. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and enthusiastic cheering, waving of hats and handkerchiefs, which continued for several minutes, accompanied by the strongest expressions of indignation against the ministry for their attack upon the religious liberties of the people.

The following resolutions were carried unanimously, "That in the opinion of this meeting the grateful thanks of the people of Ireland are due to those Irish members of parliament who have firmly and manfully opposed the present administration—an administration which rose to power by professing attachment to civil and religious liberty; but which, in disregard of such professions, has proposed the re-enactment of penal laws against the Catholics of the empire."

"That we deem it our duty most emphatically to call upon the Irish Liberal members to attend in their places in parliament on the 5th May, when the government measure of pains and penalties is moved in committee, as well as all other occasions where ministerial difficulties arise: and that we will deem any Irish member absenting himself on that or any other important motion where the existence of the present government is likely to be perilled, and an opportunity offers of driving them ignominiously from office, to have forfeited the confidence of his constituents, and to have basely betrayed the dearest interests of his country and religion. And furthermore, we strongly urge on the constituencies to call upon such members immediately to resign their trust."

CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE IRISH PRELACY.

ADDRESS FROM THE RELIGIOUS CATHOLIC FRATERNITIES TO THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF IRELAND.

To His Grace the Lord Primate, and other Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS.—We, the members of the Confraternities and Christian Doctrine Societies of Dublin and its vicinity, approach your lordships with sentiments of the most profound respect and sincere attachment, and we recognise in your lordships the true trustees to whose faithful guardianship has been entrusted that holy faith which was planted in this country in the fourth century by the great Apostle St. Patrick, and has continued since in unbroken continuity through ages of the most dire persecution, and is at this day as resplendent as when first established, but more dear to the laity, whose ancestors mingled their blood with that of their devoted pastors, to sustain the sacred cause of religion.

Shall we, after so glorious an example, fail to sustain your lordships at this important crisis, when the enemies of the Catholic Church are determined, by penal enactments, to deprive us of the benefits of your sacred ministry, and curtail those principles of civil and religious liberty which our combined efforts achieved through the indomitable energy and persevering exertions of the immortal Liberator of our country. Forbid it, Heaven! for the dearest consolation left us in our beautiful but misgoverned country, is the ineffable happiness we feel in the practice of our holy religion, and the inculcating of its sacred principles on the minds of the rising generation.

Yes, my lords, in these are concentrated our warmest affections as Catholics and Irishmen—for these our just rights as citizens and subjects of the gracious Queen of these realms we shall vigorously co-operate with your lordships by every constitutional means in our power, and, if necessary, lay down our lives for the sustenance of your sacred prerogatives, and that civil and religious liberty which we enjoy in common with our brethren in Great Britain.

Therefore, my lords, fear not the threats of those who, through ignorance or malice, seek to restrict you in the exercise of your holy mission—for we, on this occasion, but feebly express the warm and devoted sentiments of seven millions of Catholics in this country, and we join our fervent aspirations with your lordships, that the cause of truth and justice may be triumphant.

Begging your lordship's benediction to strengthen us in these resolutions, we have the honor to remain, your lordship's most humble and devoted children in Christ.

(Signed on behalf of the meeting,)

PETER HACKETT, Chairman,
WILLIAM O'CONNELL, } Secs.
MICHAEL DEVROY, }

THE REPLY OF HIS GRACE THE LORD PRIMATE TO THE RELIGIOUS CONFRATERNITIES OF DUBLIN.

GENTLEMEN—Allow me to assure you that I receive with feelings of great gratification the truly Catholic address, which, in the name of the Confraternities and Christian Doctrine Societies of Dublin and its vicinity, you have presented to me and the other bishops assisting at this committee.

My venerable colleagues here present fully agree with me, I am sure, when I state that the expression of your devoted attachment to the Catholic episco-

pate, and your readiness to co-operate with your clergy in defending the rights and liberties of the Church, fill us with consolation and encouragement.

We are living in times in which it is of the utmost importance that we should be all, both clergy and laity, closely united together, and ever ready to exert ourselves in the cause of justice and truth. Our holy religion, though, like its Divine Founder, it has been always placed as a sign to be contradicted, was never more violently assailed and insulted than at present. Our doctrines and sacred practices are stigmatised as "mummies of superstition"—our Church, because she is inflexible in her adhesion to truth, and will not allow her children to be tossed about by every wind of doctrine, is accused of "enslaving the soul" and "confining the intellect"—no effort is spared to evoke a spirit of bigotry and intolerance, and we are threatened to be deprived of those rights which, after ages of persecution, the Catholics of Ireland by great sacrifices and untiring exertions recovered but a few years ago, under the guidance of that great man whose name must be always dear to Ireland.

But though the aspect of things is menacing, still if we be united among ourselves, and true to the principles of our holy religion, we have nothing to fear—we may, indeed, have to undergo trials and persecutions; but if we bear them with patience and resignation to the will of God, our sufferings will be to us a source of merit and glory. For the holy Catholic Church we can entertain no fears—she has survived all storms, she is grounded on a rock, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against her. It is for them to fear and tremble who war against the spouse of Jesus Christ and seek her destruction. We may address them in the words of Saint Justin to the Roman Emperors—"Take heed how you hearken only to unjust accusations, fear lest an excessive complaisance for superstitious men, a haste as blind, as rash, old prejudices which have no foundation but calumny, may cause you to pronounce a terrible sentence against yourselves. As for us, nobody can harm us, unless we harm ourselves—unless we ourselves become guilty of some injustice. You may indeed kill us, but you cannot injure us."

The duties, to the performance of which you, gentlemen, devote yourselves in your respective confraternities and Christian doctrine societies, co-operating with your clergy in the instruction of youth in the principles of Catholic faith and morality, cannot, under existing circumstances be sufficiently appreciated. The great tendency of the present day is to corrupt the rising generations to the instrumentality of education—to poison the fountain of knowledge, to separate science from religion, and to withdraw the faithful from the jurisdiction of their pastor by establishing educational systems over which the Church cannot exercise sufficient control. It is only by the diffusion of Catholic truth, by impressing upon the mind of youth the necessity of faith without which it is impossible to please God, by inspiring them with the profoundest sentiments of respect and veneration for that Church, out of which there is no salvation, that the evils which menace us are to be averted, and the torrent of indifference and infidelity effectually stemmed.

When you reflect upon the circumstances of the times, and the dangers which surround us, you will require no exhortation to zeal and activity in the good work in which you are engaged. Whilst instructing those who are committed to your care, you will not fail to edify them by the tenor and example of your lives, and thus you will be able to aspire to the reward promised by the Scripture in the consoling words—"They that are learned shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that instruct many, as stars for all eternity."—Dan. xii. 3.

In conclusion, gentlemen, to you and your worthy and zealous associates, on my own part, and that of the prelates here present, I offer the sincere expression of our gratitude for your kindness, and beg to commend ourselves and the cause of our holy faith to your fervent prayers.

† PAUL CULLEN, Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland.

MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC CLERGY OF TUAM.

The Catholic Clergy of the Deanery of Tuam assembled during Holy Week, and presided over by His Grace the Archbishop, have adopted the following resolutions:—

Resolved—That, assembled during this great week to celebrate the melancholy, but merciful, anniversary of our Redeemer's Passion, we deem it a sacred duty to promulgate the surprise and sorrow with which we have received the tidings that the ministerial measure of persecution, already sufficiently known and executed, is about being surcharged with fresh provisions of a still more penal character; and if we forbear from expressing, along with feelings of surprise and sorrow, those of indignation too, it is only because we know that the Disciple is not above his Master, and because we hope that, fortified by the example of His patience and the consolations of His prediction, we will endure with becoming resignation any share of those persecutions, which the Crucified Founder of our holy religion foretold would be the lot of His faithful followers as well as His own.

Resolved—That, however prepared for enduring the worst in our own persons, we cannot compromise the rights of our flocks, the peace of the country, and the stability of the throne; and that therefore we issue from the sanctuary our solemn and seasonable warning to the misguided ministers of her Majesty to forego in time their menaced aggression on the liberty of conscience, and to ponder well those lessons of history against which they appear to close their eyes, unfolding the national misfortunes that have ever followed in the train of religious persecution, as well as those signal providential retributions which seldom failed to overtake its guilty perpetrators.

Resolved—That the twenty faithful and uncompromising Irish members who first taught the persecuting Prime Minister the salutary lesson of Ireland's power in the dissolution of his cabinet—a number since in-

creased and strengthened by the accession of several more friends to religious freedom—are entitled to our warmest gratitude; that no political measure, whatever might be its value, could be weighed for a moment in favor of a persecuting ministry, against the enormous and essential wickedness of persecuting the Divine Religion of Christ; and that, therefore, we call again upon all the Irish Catholic members who value their religion, and all the Protestant members who value peace and justice, to use every constitutional engine to hurl the present ministry once more from office, which repeated lesson of the union and strength of Irishmen will teach their successors, no matter who, to abandon for ever the hateful and disastrous policy of persecution.

Resolved—That, on our return to our respective parishes, we will proclaim to our faithful flocks our well-founded alarms for the safety of the hierarchy, assailed as it is by truculent foes, whilst many hollow-hearted Catholics, whose fetters were struck off by the united exertions of the hierarchy and people, look without emotion on the dangers with which our holy religion is threatened; that in such a crisis we feel the forcible truth of our Redeemer's adage, "he that is not with me is against me," justifying us in ranking among the enemies of the Catholic religion all those who will not now lend their strenuous efforts in vindication of its freedom; that we express a fervent hope that strong and repeated remonstrances will be sent forth against this measure during the Easter recess, in every variety of form, from the parochial and district meetings to the aggregate meeting of all Ireland, sending forth the united voice of its people as the roar of many waters, and proclaiming in the name of that people, still strong, though decimated by a murderous famine, whose progress is not yet checked, that they will not tamely suffer the priests and bishops to be banished—their temples to become a wilderness—their altars to be desecrated or profaned—their consecrated virgins to be insulted by the impious intrusions of licentious and insolent officials, or the sacred, but scanty, offerings which piety has recently made for diffusing religious education and morality among the humbler classes to be again filled by impure and alien harpies, who, not content with the hecatombs of victims that have been sacrificed to their cruel avarice since the spoliation of Catholic charities, which abandoned the destitute to starvation, are again panting for a second sacrilegious robbery of the poor and of the sanctuary, and which avidly for Catholic charities reveals all the pretended pliancy about Papal aggression.

Signed by † JOHN, Archbishop of Tuam, and twenty-nine of his clergy.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—Since our last announcement of the receipts of the Catholic University Committee, we have ascertained that the contributions continue to flow in steadily and perseveringly, showing no lack either of ardour or devotion to the good work; and as facts make the most convincing arguments, that which we announce to-day—namely, that the receipts of the committee, since Monday the 14th, to the present, have amounted to the munificent sum of £1,427 0s. 6d., shows more than words could, how deep the love of our countrymen is for pure and unadulterated education. It is some measure of the profoundness of the feelings to which the Catholic University appeals, that we are able to announce as received through the Primate, within the time above stated, three anonymous contributions, amounting to £800.—*Freeman*.

His Grace the Primate has made the following appointments:—Rev. Peter M'Arle, C.C., Upper Kilkenny, to be P.P. of Fonghlan; Rev. James Quin, late of Maynooth, to Moneymore.

The Rev. Mr. O'Connell, of All-Hallows' College, Drumcondra, has set out for San Francisco, whither he has been invited to assist in that Mission by the Bishop, Right Rev. Dr. Allenamanni.

MORE CONVERTS TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

Mrs. Taylor, whose meditated apostasy was announced a few months ago, was formally received into the Roman Catholic Church on Wednesday last, by the administering of the sacrament of Baptism. She is possessed of a considerable sum in the funds, entirely at her own disposal.—*Sligo Journal*.

Rowland Halker, of Engadina House, Torquay, was received into the Catholic Church last week, at Tor Abbey, by the Rev. M. Power.—*Catholic Standard*.

The family of Dr. Ferrard, the Classical Examiner of the London University, whose conversion was announced last week, were received into the church with him.—*Tribune*.

A correspondent in Tunbridge Wells informs us, that, "On Wednesday last, April 16th, Henry James Thompson, Esq., and his wife, were received into the Catholic Church at St. Augustine's, Tunbridge Wells, by the Rev. Peter Sherlock. They are the parents of Edward Healy Thompson, Esq., who has done such excellent service to the Catholic Church since his conversion, by his most able and convincing work on "The Unity of the Episcopate," and very recently, by the important share he has taken in the editing, and, probably, the authorship of "The Clifton Tracts."—*Ibid.*

The Italian newspapers state that an English lady and her two children, having abjured the errors of Protestantism, were received into the church of God, at Bergamo.

One of our Paris correspondents informs us that Baron Weld also entered the Church of God on last Friday week, and that a Greek schismatic priest, from Mount Athos, will make his abjuration on Easter Sunday, in the Greek Church of the Sclavonian rite.—*Catholic Standard*.

On Sunday last, a very affecting ceremony attracted a great crowd of the faithful, and a few Protestants, to the church of St. Saviour, where ten Protestants—five young men and five young girls, after having abjured the errors of Protestantism to enter the bosom of the Holy Catholic Church, received baptism conditionally, and were admitted to partake of the Bread of Life, with a great number of other young communicants.—*L'Abeille de la Vienne*.