

where the same intrepid warriors landed their hosts, for France gave up Normandy, England gave her entire kingdom, Italy ceded part of her territory, while Ireland gave to these brave Norsemen for their inheritance a briny ocean grave. Truly Irishmen have proved by these deeds alone, that they loved their country with an all-sacrificing love.

Notwithstanding their intense love for Erin, the children of St. Patrick have never forgotten the sacred duty of loving the Church more than country. Of this they gave a grand proof at the time of the so-called Reformation. Ireland was then disunited and had been so for four hundred years. Kings disputed with one another the supreme rule in the isle, chief warred upon chief. National unity seemed gone forever, since not even the danger from enemies without could inspire the chieftains with wiser counsels. But no, not yet. What love for country could not do, love for religion was quickly to accomplish. Henry VIII. and Elizabeth were to be the saviors of Ireland's nationality. They had abandoned the Catholic faith—the faith to which their ancestors had clung for a thousand years—they had even invented a religion of their own, and having had it accepted by their countrymen, they tried to force it upon the people of Ireland. The result was wonderful. At once, by a common impulse the barriers of the clan were thrown down, petty quarrels were forgotten and the entire nation rallied to the standard of the cross, around which they have stood to this day.

The Irish have loved their Church with an unparalled love. Since Patrick taught the nation the Truth Divine more than 1400 years ago, never has this race elect rejected one iota of the Church's teaching, nor adhered to doctrines that have fallen under the Church's censure. Heresy appeared but once in the island, and even then it was fostered not by Irish but by Anglo-Normans. "It is a remarkable fact," says Father Thébaud, S.J., in his "Irish Race," "that at the beginning of the fourteenth century the name of heresy is mentioned for the first and last time; the new doctrines bearing a close resemblance to some of the errors of the Albigenses, and their chief propagators being all lords of the Pale." He further adds that "the number of the sectarians was so small as to become almost insignificant;