

of a Catholic priest, the mass or schools, he was liable to one year's imprisonment if he refused. Magistrates could be fined for failing to live up to this law. So it was that in a purely Catholic country Bishop and priests had to live in hovels and obscure places under false names and disguises, attending their flocks under the cover of darkness in caverns or among the mountains.

The civil rights of a Catholic were few if any. They were forbidden to sit in the Irish Parliament, vote at elections or serve on grand juries. They were excluded from the army and navy, from town corporations, magistracies, the bench, the bar and every government office, high or low. Their houses might be searched without a warrant any time for arms. Except in the linen trade a Catholic could not have more than two apprentices. He could not have a horse worth more than five pounds and a Protestant could take any of his horses by offering five pounds.

The laws regarding Catholic education decreed that a Catholic could not attend a university, nor be the guardian of a child, nor a school teacher, or private tutor. Education abroad was forbidden. The only schools were Protestant public schools.

No Catholic could buy or inherit land or receive it as a gift from a non Catholic. A Catholic had to pay rent according to his income and if he failed to do so his farm belonged to the first Protestant informer. The Protestant informer became possessor of the lands which a Catholic purchased from a Protestant.

Still more rigorous were the laws affecting domestic life. If the eldest son turned Protestant he was to succeed to the estates of his father, and from that moment they could not be sold or charged with debt. A child however young who declared himself Protestant was immediately placed in custody of a Protestant relative. A wife who turned Protestant was entitled to a portion of her husband's property. A Protestant who married a Catholic was to incur the same penalties of the Penal Laws as Catholics. A priest who blessed such a marriage was to be hanged.

Thus the Penal Laws of Ireland were intended to wipe out the Catholic religion wholly in Ireland,—that they did not do so is due to the special Providence of God and the deeply-rooted and passionate love of the faith which has always existed among the Irish people.