

in a new country,—with that religious division which so sadly abounds,—with the apathy and inconsistency among the laity,—and with that forgetfulness of their duty to the Church which is so often found in those who are in power,—still not only do we find abundant encouragement in remembering whose word we minister, whose commission we bear, and upon whose promised blessing we can rely,—but also seeing the clouds we once so much dreaded gradually breaking, and giving place to a serene and brighter sky,—beholding the tokens of the Divine blessing in the increasing prosperity of our Zion, we are animated to thank God for the past and to trust Him for the future. And even though our hearts have been deeply saddened and perplexed by the departure from the pure faith of Christ of some of our brethren in England, yet even here we are not left without some alleviating considerations. That these perversions have been but few, we know, if in no other way at least in this, that the same unholy triumph by which those that have taken place have been trumpeted to the world, would have taken care to chronicle others also if they had occurred. We know, also, that the accessions of the ministers of Dissent and Romanism to the Communion of the Church, have been more than the defections from it.* And in regard to the general state of the Church in the Mother Countries, we have the following testimony from an Irish Prelate, whose piety, learning, and talents, are of the highest order, and to whose words, the fact of his having written with great power in opposition to the extreme errors of the later numbers of the Oxford Tracts may perhaps impart additional weight. “I believe,” writes the Lord Bishop of Ossory,† “that while at no former period did the clergy

* Out of a great number of facts that might be adduced to substantiate the correctness of this statement, let it suffice to adduce the two following. The first, as given in a late number of “The Church,” is, that there are no less than 30 (other accounts say 40) gentlemen, formerly Dissenting Preachers, studying at the College of St. Bees, in Cumberland, with a view to enter the Church of England. The second is, that the conversion of Roman Catholic Priests to the Church of England, had become so numerous in Ireland as to lead to the formation of a “Priest Protection Society” in that country.

† In a published Charge to his Clergy.