

disloyalty never attached to the name. There was reckless extravagance, folly, self-indulgence and utter want of thought for the future; but in saying this I think I have said the worst that can be said of the family. A fierce intolerance of opinion amounting almost to hatred of the adversary, existed in Ireland for generations, and in the universal bitterness that prevailed power was seldom exercised on either side in a very Christian spirit. Moreover, the specific prejudices induced by difference of creed and race—the hostility gendered between loyalty and disloyalty to the English rule; the intolerant spirit that prevailed, led, doubtless, to many acts not defensible in the light of the nineteenth century, and it is only right to consider them in relation to the times.

One of the Gowans of the last century, my father's uncle, was malignantly defamed by a certain Edward Hay, in a so-called History of the Irish Rebellion, written from a Jacobin standpoint. He was a violent partizan, and wrote moreover, smarting under a recent imprisonment he was subjected to on strong suspicion of complicity in the rebellion. His charges of violence, oppression and slaughter, were repeated on his authority by later writers, and yet he did not adduce a particle of proof in support of his broad assertions. He quotes, indeed, a proclamation by the rebels, the preamble to which reads, "Whereas, it stands manifestly notorious that James Boyd, Hawtrey White, Hunter Gowan and Archibald Hamilton Jacob, late magistrates