

ples promulgated by man. It is to encourage them, to acquire the art of reading, to employ this art in a constant, and careful, and pious perusal of the Word of God; to dare to investigate matters for themselves, and to examine the dogmas of their Church by the sure rule of inspiration. Though all this might not be effected to the extent every zealous Protestant and sincere lover of civil and religious liberty must earnestly desire, still *much might* be done—aye, and much has been done. We are not disposed to espouse the cause of fanaticism, nor to use that ominous word *revival* in a canting or party sense; but, in truth, sometimes we cannot avoid thinking that *the Lord is declaring himself openly*, that a new era is dawning on benighted Ireland, and that they who may be spared half or a quarter of a century longer may live to witness the triumph of *this emancipation*, so “devoutly to be wished.”

An interesting pamphlet is now before us containing the speech of the Earl of Farnham, at the Reformation Meeting, held in Cavan, in the month of January last.” Lord Farnham, we are informed, is *one of the few Irish landlords who reside on their estates*. He is beloved and respected by his tenants and dependants, to whom he recommends, by his own example, the precepts and principles of pure Christianity; and instead of inflaming their minds with the idea of imaginary evils, or the anticipation of visionary advantages, he endeavours to save them from real calamity, and to promote their permanent welfare. This pious and eloquent nobleman candidly avows:—

“Until very lately, I was of opinion that the superstitious attachment of the Roman Catholic people to their Priests was so strong, and the sway of the Clergy over the minds of their flocks so absolute, that any idea of the possibility of detaching the people from them, appeared to me to be visionary. But a fair and full experiment has been made, and the result now satisfactorily proves that this opinion was founded in ignorance of the actual state of Ireland; and that the conversion of thousands of its inhabitants to Protestantism, is no matter of Utopian speculation.”

In corroboration of this opinion, his Lordship stated, that WITHIN “THE SPACE OF FOUR MONTHS, and WITHIN THE SINGLE COUNTY “OF CAVAN, NO LESS THAN 450 PERSONS HAD PUBLICLY RENOUNCED “THE ERRORS OF THE CHURCH OF ROME, AND HAD BECOME MEMBERS “OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.” These conversions were not the result of hasty decision or capricious love of change, or hope of secular advantage. On the contrary, Lord Farnham declares:—

“They inquired for my Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. M’Creight, and informed him that from reading the Scriptures they were convinced of the errors of the creed they had hitherto professed, and were desirous of conforming to the Established Church, and only wanted the countenance and protection of Protestants in order to fix their determination.”

It is clear, therefore, they dreaded persecution from the Papists, if they avowed their change of religious opinion. His Lordship adds:—