

convened at Cashell, A.D. 1172, at which he presented the bulls of Adrian IV., and Alexander III., as his authority for invading Ireland. These bulls, which are as follows, show that the Popes did not consider that the Church of Ireland then acknowledged obedience to the Romish see:—

“Adrian, bishop, servant of the servants of God, to his dearest son in Christ, the illustrious King of England, greeting and apostolical benediction:—

“Full laudably and profitably hath your magnificence conceived the design of propagating your glorious renown on earth, and completing your reward of eternal happiness in heaven, while as a catholic prince you are intent on enlarging the borders of the church, teaching the truth of the Christian faith to the ignorant and rude, extirpating the roots of vice from the field of the Lord, and for the more convenient execution of this purpose requiring the counsel and favour of the apostolic see; in which the maturer your deliberation, and the greater the discretion of your procedure, by so much the happier, we trust, will be your progress, with the assistance of the Lord; as all things are used to come to a prosperous end and issue, which take their beginning from the ardour of faith, and the love of religion.

“There is indeed no doubt but that Ireland, and all the islands on which Christ the Sun of Righteousness hath shone, and which have received the doctrine of the Christian faith, do belong to St. Peter and the holy Roman church; as our excellency also doth acknowledge; and therefore we are the more solicitous to propagate the righteous plantation of this faith in this land, and the branch acceptable to God; as we have the secret conviction of conscience that this is more especially our bounden duty. You thus, my dear son in Christ, have signified to us your desire to enter into the island of Ireland, in order

to the people to obedience under the  
to extirpate the plants of vice; and  
willing to be taken from each house

church, restraining the progress of vice, for the correction of manners, the planting of virtue, and the increase of religion, you enter this island, and execute therein whatever shall pertain to the honour of God and welfare of the land; and that the people of this land receive you honourably and accept you as their lord, the rights of the church still remaining sacred and inviolate, and saving to St. Peter the annual pension of one penny from every house. If you thus be resolved to carry the design you have conceived into effectual execution, study to form this nation to virtue and manners, and labour by yourself and others, as you shall judge meet, for this work, in faith, word and life, that the church may be there adorned, that the religion of the Christian faith may be planted and grow up, and that all things pertaining to the honour of God and salvation of souls be so ordered, that you may be entitled to the fulness of heavenly reward from God, and obtain a glorious renown on earth throughout all ages. Given at Rome in the year of salvation 1168.”

“Alexander, bishop, servant of the servants of God, to his most dear son in Christ the illustrious King of England, health and apostolical benediction:—

“Forasmuch as these things which have been on good reason granted by our predecessors deserve to be confirmed in the fullest manner, and considering the grant of the dominions of Ireland by the Venerable Pope Adrian, we, pursuing his footsteps, do ratify and confirm the same (preserving to St. Peter and to the holy Roman Church, as well in England as in Ireland, the yearly pension of one penny from every house); provided that the abominations of the land being removed, that barbarous people, Christians only in name, may by your means be reformed, and their lives and conversation mended, so that their disordered church being thus reduced to regular discipline, that nation may with the name of Christians be so in act and deed. Given at Rome in the year of salvation 1172.”

On the presentation of these bulls, Henry's title to the sovereignty was fully acknowledged, and cannot be said amending abuses, and binding the Church of Ireland with the chain of popery. The following is the canon which produced this effect:—“That henceforth in all parts of the Kingdom of Ireland all divine offices be regulated