

minister, who is the head and ornament of the Catholic Church in England. The Catholic Bishops and clergy in England and Scotland generally, and without exception, that I know of, condemned it. In the United States it has been discountenanced by the Catholic Bishops and clergy, and denounced in strong terms by many of them. In Canada it has been universally discountenanced by the Catholic hierarchy and clergy, and denounced in language clear and strong by that eminent Irishman and Catholic prelate, the learned, amiable, and venerable Archbishop of Halifax, distinguished not only by his zeal for the interests of religion, but also for his disinterested and powerful advocacy of Confederation. Nor could anything surpass the uncompromising determination, and the energy of language and action with which the esteemed Bishop Farrel, of Hamilton, sought out, and uprooted, and crushed every germ of Fenianism in his diocese from the outset. The venerable Bishop of Toronto, too, as soon as he became aware of the real character and designs of the infamous brotherhood, placed his foot on the serpent's head. Neither has the learned and pious Bishop Walsh, of London, been backward in exhibiting towards it decided disapproval, disfavor, and dislike: while his senior Vicar-General, the venerable and plucky Father Bruyere, has never flagged in the zeal, vigilance, and determination with which he has labored to expose its character, and prevent its obtaining a foothold in the diocese; and in this his example has been followed successfully by all the clergy.

Strictly in accord with all this has been the practice of the Church; so much so, that no person avowing himself, or known to be a Fenian, has been permitted to partake of her sacraments, or other consolations usually administered to the faithful.

In Buffalo, one of the hot-beds of Fenianism in the United States, the rite of Christian burial has been denied to Fenians after death; and the same has been done elsewhere; and it would be done everywhere if the friends of deceased Fenians presumed to require the rite. Such being the state of the case, it is, I apprehend, too clear to admit of doubt that no Catholic, be he Irish or not, who is attached to his Church, and guided by her teaching, can be a Fenian, or harbor sympathy for Fenianism, after he learns and understands its character. By the mere fact of joining that society, the Catholic incurs the censure of the Church, and ceases to be of her, until he recants.

I desire not, however, to be understood as denying that Catholics have become Fenians. Undoubtedly many Irish Catholics in Ireland and the United States joined the organization, allured thereto by artful appeals to those feelings of dislike for and hatred of British rule in Ireland, which centuries of misrule and oppression had engendered in the minds of most Irish Catholics. But those who were so allured were the unreflecting, many of them generous and patriotic people, who became an easy prey to wiles of initiated knaves and demagogues, most of whom made the whole affair a matter of speculation for profit's sake. Yet these poor dupes, without knowing it, in most instances without even thinking of it, in the excitement and tumult of their roused feelings, forfeited that which, under