

Ireland.

To those who read only the newspapers, Ireland's thoughts and energies seem all absorbed in the Home Rule agitation. But there is another movement going on in the land of faith, affecting the interests not so much of time as of eternity, and with currents wider and deeper still. During the past five years, the Holy League has swept like a triumphant wave over the island, with results that bid fair to regain for Ireland the most glorious of her lost titles, that of the Isle of Saints.

The last fibres are being torn up of the spirit of Jansenism which preached the doctrine of fear and instilled an exaggerated reverence estranging the faithful from the love of their Saviour and the reception of His sacraments. Thus it chilled and froze the spiritual life in the veins of a people remarkable for its deep and sturdy faith, and there was disappointment and surprise that a root so vigorous, a trunk so ancient and so sound, should not yield a more exuberant foliage, a richer efflorescence of piety, more abundant fruits of sanctity. But the winter is passed, and the summer with its bright warm sunshine and golden harvests is coming on. According to an English Catholic periodical, Ireland is the only country in the world where you will see the Holy Table frequented, on week days as well as Sundays, by as many men as women. The *practical* Catholic Irishman of forty or fifty years ago, who gloried in his *Sunday* mass and his *Easter* communion, for which the time was lengthened out until July, and who stigmatized as Pharisees and hypocrites those who went at other times, this type of Irishman is fast passing into the stage of fossilhood. If he would see the outcome of his *practical* Catholicity, he should follow his sons throughout the length and breadth of America, and find how many go to the Sacraments or Sunday mass only once, perhaps, in five years, when the band of Missionaries comes around that way, and hardly do that much unless they *chance* (which is not always the case) to have a Catholic wife who herself had been stirred up by a week's mission.