

speaking all who knew and heard him in those days, while his scholastic armor was yet bright from the forge, and his maiden sword turned aside from no encounter, whatever the odds arrayed against him.

Between the years 1824 and '28, Ireland was visited by one of those angry squalls of controversy which spring up so suddenly in the troubled recesses of the Protestant conscience, and rage for a season with such irrational violence. A formidable attempt was made—for the hundredth time at least—to overthrow the Church of Saint Patrick, and to establish the Church of England in its stead. The mistaken benevolence of English sectarians and the blinded zeal of the Irish landlords combined to supply the funds, and Exeter Hall furnished or equipped the missionaries. The principal of these were Captain Gordon, a descendant of the lordly rioter of 1780, the Rev. Messrs. Irving, Baptist Noel, McNeile, Stowell and Wolff—all English; the Hon. and Rev. Sir Harcourt Lees, Rev. Mr. Pope, and Rev. Messrs. O'Sullivan and O'Phelan, Irish. Among the Irish landlords, Lords Roden, Lorton, and Farnham were their most active patrons. In the cities, the Corporators being exclusively Protestant, extended to them every indulgence and protection. To sustain the crusade with funds and tracts, "Bible Societies" and "Reformation Societies" were established in the principal cities of both kingdoms; periodical returns were made and given to the public,