

The murder of Thomas A'Becket brought Henry back to England in 1172; but before going he wrote a letter to Rome of the great reformation he had wrought in Church and State, representing the Irish Church as already exhibiting hopeful signs, and expressed confident anticipations that before long it would be a model of purity. This was pleasing intelligence, and Henry received, after a short time, a congratulatory reply. The King had scarcely left the shores of Ireland when the spirit of rebellion to his authority again arose; and we find Roderick O'Connor, who was still King of Ireland, joined by Desmond and Thomond, renewing the old struggle, which ended for the time by a treaty, in which Roderick promised submission to Henry, and, as a token of it, agreed to pay him a hide from every tenth head of cattle. Henry, on his part, covenanted to secure to Roderick the full sovereignty, as before, over the most part of Ireland. The only parts excepted were Dublin, Meath, Leinster, Waterford, and Dungarvan, with the country between it and Waterford. King Henry also promised to sustain O'Connor's authority over the petty princes.

Amidst all this turmoil and treachery and national dismemberment, the monastic institutions of Ireland still continued to exercise their influence, and carry out their mission of civilisation. There is no more glorious fact in history, or one which proclaims more loudly the divine spirit of Catholicity, than the position which the Catholic Church has ever occupied in stemming the tide of barbarism and diffusing the light of knowledge all over the earth. Regarding the Catholic Church as a mere human institution, it is a marvel of wisdom; but we must view it in a far higher light, showing, as it does, the impress of the Divine Hand.

In those days, when conquest and oppression had reduced Ireland to a state of complete social and political chaos, there were in the quiet retirement of such monasteries as escaped the hands of the despoilers, learned and holy men, whose pious exertions helped to lead the minds of the people beyond the passions and the interests of the world as they were born for a higher destiny.

ANOTHER LIE NAILED.

An anti-Catholic writer has stated his case clearly and briefly against Christianity and the Catholic Church in relation to Slavery. His words are: "There is no better example of the illusions under which *believers* can labor than their obstinacy in crediting Christianity and the Church with the abolition of slavery, when in reality it is certain that ancient slavery existed equally under the Christian Empire as under the Pagan—that it existed also during the middle ages—that negro slavery was established during the reign of the Church, and that up to this present moment, that Papacy which condemned everything so easily and so imprudently, has never had the courage to condemn it. The Church has reigned 18½ centuries, and slavery, torture, education by corporal punishment and many other injustices have continued all the time with the approbation of the Church and in the Church; liberal philosophy had reigned only for a day at the close of the 18th century, and she swept all those before her almost at one blow."—*Havel*.

These are bold words against the Catholic Church; and all the more valuable because of their boldness. In a few short words they are evidently intended to state the whole case; they hide nothing; they extenuate nothing;

BUT ARE THEY TRUE?

Not to answer each count in detail, since collectively they cover a period of 1800 years, there is one of them so palpably false as to throw the gravest suspicion over all the rest. "The Papacy," we are told, "has never condemned Negro Slavery." Really; this is *too bad* even for a liberal philosopher battling against the Catholic Church. For what are the facts? The Bull of Pius II., in 1482—of Paul III., in 1557—of Urban VIII., in 1639—of Benedict XIV., in 1741, (one every century for four centuries) each and all condemn slavery and the slave trade with a vigour truly Apostolic. "It is not true then that the Papacy which condemns everything so easily and so imprudently has never had the courage to condemn Negro Slavery."