

As a general rule—an almost unexceptioned rule—both classes, in town and country, while ardently and unmistakably Irish, are, at the same time, as loyal to British-American institutions, as thoroughly content with the Government under which they live—the Imperial connection included—as any other portion of our population, of whatever faith or origin. Being one of the Members of the Parliament and the Government of this country for some years past, I have felt it to be my first duty to strengthen and extend this patriotic spirit, for their own good and the good of our adopted country; and doing so I have felt bound necessarily to resist and combat the invidious and incessant efforts to the contrary, of the secret Irish societies established during the civil war, at New York. When those societies have given you so much trouble even on your side the Atlantic, your Lordship may imagine what efforts they must have put forth in these British provinces, one-third Irish, and within one day's reach of their headquarters.

Our countrymen in Canada, my Lord, do not so much regard the American Fenian leaders as enemies of England, but rather as enemies of Canada, and enemies of Ireland. We see in them not so much regulators of Irish wrongs, as impediments to Ireland's reconstruction. Those of us who are Catholics, living in and by our holy faith, add to this political hostility towards Fenianism, a rooted horror of all secret societies, so frequently condemned and anathematized by the Church. Knowing, moreover, what manner of men the American organizers usually are—seeing the wanton misery they have caused their dupes “at home”—and the dishonor they have brought on the Irish name everywhere—the very sound of Fenianism is detested with us, save and except by a few characterless desperadoes among the floating population of our principal cities.

*(But I cannot conceal from your Lordships that no lay advocacy, and no ecclesiastical influence, could have kept our countrymen here loyal and at peace, if this country were governed as Ireland has been during the sixty-eight years of her legislative union with Great Britain. Everything our emigrants find in Canada is very unlike everything they left behind them in Ireland. We have here no Established Church, no system of tenancy at will, no Poor Laws, nor any need of them. We have instead, complete religious equality among all our churches, a general acquisition of property as the reward of well-directed industry, the fullest local control of our own resources and revenues; our collegiate and primary education; our public works; our militia, marine, and courts of justice. Therefore it is, my lord, we are loyal to the Queen in Canada, and well content as well we may be, with the government of this country.)*

It is not for me, at this distance from Ireland, and in the absence of recent experience, to make the application of this example, or so much of it as can be applied, to the very different condition of Ireland. I but state the facts of the Irish position in these provinces, for your Lordship's meditation as an Imperial adviser of the Crown, as I have already had the honor to do more fully, last year, while in London, to your illustrious late leader, the Earl of Derby, and in 1865, when in Dublin, to Lord Kimberley, then Lord Lieutenant.

I must not, however, assume that the passing notice with which your Lordship honored me in the late debate, can justify farther intrusion on your valuable time; but I felt, on all the grounds above stated, a strong prompting to explain