

sometime before he entered Ireland he came to Britain to preach the saving faith; that he was sent from Britain into Ireland, that for a brief space he left Ireland to have pity upon Britain; that before taking ship at Liverpool in the presence of the hundreds who accompanied him to the coast to manifest their gratitude, to receive the blessing of one to whom they owed so much, he erected a cross as a lasting remembrance, a cross which for centuries did bear his name. And I have often thought that, there invested with that prophetic light which God has given to many of his Saints, viewing into the future, he implored the blessing of the Almighty, the remembrance of the cross, for those of that nation he bore the nearest to his heart and with whom he was to spend his life, who in years to come should in the decrees of God, sail from that same port to other lands to bear with them that faith which he was taking ship to preach. We know what great things he did in the Isle of Man. That on his return from Rome he yet took Britain on his way and established many monasteries there. This is what England has owed him in the past, but is this all England owes to him? No! God forbid! There is no English Catholic heart that clings not with the greatest gratitude and fondness to the memory of him whose festival we celebrate to-day.

Glance at Great Britain as she is. What a change within the past few years! How is it that the Catholic population is increasing about four times as fast as the general population? That since 1849 there has been an increase of about ninety per cent in the number of clergy and of churches? That in 1867 seventy-six new churches were built in England? Fifty years ago in 1779 there were in England but thirty-five churches and private oratories, no convents, no monasteries and but 100 priests; and in 1868 England has an Archbishop, 12 Bishops, 1283 churches, 1639 Priests, 227 convents, 67 monasteries and 21 colleges and preparatory schools. Is not the secret to be found chiefly in the fact that a large part of the population of England and Wales are natives of Ireland, that their children born in England are tabulated as English, that there is an annual emigration of about 18000. To whom are due the fine churches to be seen growing up in the large cities? In a great measure to the Irish Catholics. It is true that within the past 25 years upwards of 59 churches have been erected by English converts at their own expence, besides doubtless