

"IRLANDA! IRLANDA! SEMPRE FIDELE."

TWO grand organizations lead men to their final end. The State is organized to look after man's well-being in the present life. It is his servant commissioned to keep order around his dwelling, that he may not be disturbed from the great affair of his life. Unutterably nobler is the mission of the Church; for to her—and to her alone—has Christ entrusted the heavenly work of safeguarding God's rights on earth, of preaching His infinite mercies to mankind, of ministering to the wants of souls that hunger and thirst and of bringing them home to the arms of their fond Father.

Truly a momentous truth is this that the State and the Church lead us to our last end. From it in fact, as from their source, spring the duties the exact performance of which entitles a man to be called Christian, to be called Catholic. The Catholic loves his country, the Catholic love his church, but he loves his church more than his country. No right has he to the glorious title of Catholic who fails in rendering these duties; whose love for the Church manifests itself in sweet edifying words that lose their sweetness when contrasted with his actions; or whose life is marked by a love of preference for the State. But what is here laid down as the criterion for judging whether an individual is a genuine Christian, applies not less certainly to the body of individuals called the nation. Any nation on the one hand, across the page of whose history is written the tale of frequent violation of the authority of Jesus Christ in the person of his Vicar on earth, that has sanctioned, tacitly, if not outspokenly, a system of iniquitous laws framed to cripple the action of the Church by imposing outrageous restrictions upon her clerics, or that has not blushed to stand by rulers whose lives have been or are an avowed conspiracy against the Catholic religion, that nation surely cannot reasonably say that her history is preëminently Christian; while on the other hand, the nation that throughout the course of ages that separate us from the day of her baptism, has shown herself jealous of the rights of the Holy Father, that has been ever on the alert to ward off danger from her priests, that has abandoned rulers who be-