

sound hath gone forth into all the earth and their words unto the ends of the whole world. God's ways are not as man's ways, nor God's thoughts as man's thoughts. The designs of the Infinite are often not manifested in the lifetime of one man, nor during the duration of one century. They to whom the sufferings of Ireland are an enigma, forget the entire teaching of revelation: forget that "the disciple is not to be above his Lord;" forget "to look on Jesus the author and consummator of faith, who having joy set before him, embraced the cross, despising the shame, and sitteth on the right hand of the throne of God;" forget "the consolation which speaketh unto you," dear brethren, as unto children, "neglect not the discipline of the Lord, neither be thou wearied whilst thou art rebuked by Him, for whom the Lord loveth he chastiseth;" God dealeth with you as sons, for if you be without chastisements then you are bastards and not sons; forget not the words of the Sovereign Truth, "Blessed are ye when ye are persecuted for my sake. Amen, Amen, I say unto you, there is no man who hath left house, or brethren, or sister, or father, or mother or children, or lands for my sake and for the Gospel who shall not receive a hundred times as much now in this time, with persecutions, and in the world to come life everlasting."

O'Connell has said that the Irish people have received for their earthly mission to be nailed to the cross and to suffer for the propagation of the Gospel. Without unduly striving to penetrate into the designs of God, may not this be—can I not say such has been the working of Divine Providence? If, as I venture to believe, such is the mission of the Irish, it is a most glorious one to the eyes of faith, such a mission as God in his predilection has accorded to no other christian nation. A mission given to a peculiarly loved people to make them thereby "more conformable to the image of his Son."

The Holy Fathers have assigned as the real cause of the growth and extension of the Roman Empire, that God-willed by means of it to prepare for the diffusion of the Gospel. Those men who, from merely human motives carried the Roman Eagles to the utmost bounds of the earth, where in the designs of the Almighty, clearing the way, opening the paths for apostolic feet to tread, creating those links by which the glad tidings of great joy might be transmitted to the most distant lands. In our days the influence of Great Britain has extended itself in every part of the world; she has established colonies