

Catholic. I challenge any man to show one single instance in which the judicial decisions of Catholic judges have been swayed against justice by sectarian partialities. And as to Catholic voters for mayors or for Parliamentary representatives, every one in Ireland knows with what hearty readiness Catholic suffrages are given to patriotic Protestants. But the *Spectator* is afraid that Home Rule would damage the poor English Catholics by leaving them at the mercy of their Protestant fellow-countrymen. Now, I have a fair share of regard for the English Catholics, but I confess I have a much greater regard for the Irish Catholics. I wish well to the English Catholics, and to English Catholic interests, but I am not prepared to sacrifice the bodies and souls of my own Catholic fellow-countrymen and country-women to those interests.

The Union has hunted millions of Irish Catholics out of their country, who, under a system of Home Rule, would have had plentiful employment at home. Just let us ask how multitudes of those Irish Catholic emigrants have fared, spiritually as well as materially, on the other side of the Atlantic. The Right Rev. the Bishop of Toronto has described their state in graphic words, which I beg to read to you; "The large majority of the Irish come absolutely penniless, and hence they cannot reach the interior of the country, and are obliged to look for the cheapest lodgings in the cities; and everyone knows that such places are the haunts of vice. The consequence is, they and their children are lost to morality, to society, to religion, and finally to God." The Bishop adds much to corroborate this painful statement. I will read a few more passages: "The number of good Irish girls who arrive in New York and the other seaboard cities is prodigious. Many of them are destitute of means and friends. They are obliged by their poverty to take situations wherever they can get them, and as soon as possible. Hence they fall, not an easy prey either, but after many struggles, into the thousand snares which profligate cities throw in their way. It is humiliating, indeed, to see numbers of poor Irish girls, innocent and guileless, sitting around in those large depots in seaport cities waiting to be hired. Men and women enter those places, and look around to find out the girl that would apparently answer their service. How many of them found the protection of the wolf is known only to God." The Bishop quotes the late Right Rev. Dr. England, of Charleston, for the statement that the loss of Catholics to

the Church in America could be counted by millions. He adds that in Texas he passed through a village which, from the great number of purely Irish names upon the signboards, he judged to be an exclusively Catholic settlement; but on inquiry he found only one man, a store-keeper, who acknowledged himself a Catholic. Now, all those unfortunate emigrants were driven out of Ireland by the operation of the Union, which crushed out nearly every Irish industry except the agricultural. It is not claiming too much to say that if they could have found industrial support at home they would not present the sad spectacle of havoc and degradation to which the Bishop of Toronto bears witness. When, therefore, the *Spectator*, or any one else, tells us that the Union must continue in order to enable Irish Catholic members of Parliament to protect English Catholic interests, we reply that the moral and material perdition of multitudes of our own people is rather too high a price to pay for the privilege of taking care of the Catholics of England. I must now say a word or two about the duties of the Home Rule public. If all Ireland were polled, I take for granted that at least eleven inhabitants out of twelve would vote for Home Rule. At the last election the people behaved nobly, and the Home Rule members, with scarcely an exception, were true to their promises. At the next general election I expect we will increase their number. But it is not enough to vote for representatives. It is absolutely indispensable to sustain the Home Rule League. Political campaigns cannot be conducted without money. On this point, and indeed on every point of working detail, we may advantageously take a lesson from the English Liberation Society. Their machinery is admirable, and their perseverance is characteristic of that dogged, indefatigable, unwearied energy that forms one of the best elements of John Bull's mental structure. Bent on ultimately disestablishing the English State Church, they leave scarcely a hole or corner of Great Britain unvisited. This incessant agitation cannot be conducted without money; and accordingly they are raising a special fund of £100,000 to enable them to carry on the war. They send able lecturers every where; they circulate numerous and effective tracts in advocacy of their principles. They are not deterred by difficulties or occasional defeats; if they gain a point they make it a foothold for a farther step in advance; if beaten in any particular quarter, their spirit rises against disaster, and they collect fresh