

rebuke her oppressors; and if all this is changed to-day, it is painful to add that truth compels us to acknowledge, that we have ourselves in a very great degree to blame for it. With an infatuation inexplicable, in defiance of every prudent consideration, setting aside the useful lessons of history, we joined hands with our hereditary foe. This accession increased its strength, power and vitality a hundred-fold. But, as opposites cannot simultaneously exist side by side without one encroaching upon, and ultimately destroying, the other, so as it grew strong, we grew proportionally weak, as it grew powerful, we grew powerless. Like complementary quantities, the increase of the one was the diminution of the other, the ultimate point or zero of the one being the infinity of the other. Elated by victory and pampered by patronage, it became a centre of attraction for every one seeking favours and preferment. It gathered recruits from all directions for it was the high road to favour.

POLITICAL PRINCIPLES.

Every rational being is endowed with faculties for the discrimination of right from wrong, good from evil. The volition of a faculty is called an idea, and the manifestation of an idea under the conduct of the understanding is a principle. Government is the science of society. Man being essentially a social being, in the adaptation of means to an end, political principles must be inherent in his nature. A political party is an aggregation of individuals holding certain principles in common, and agreeing on a united basis of action. Difference of opinion being as natural as difference of colour or countenance, in order to agree on a common platform, each member must be ready to sink or leave in abeyance some of his own views. By no other process could a large and powerful party be organized. As political principles are intuitive and common to every social being, it is in accord with nature and philosophy that each individual should be attracted towards that party whose expressed views are most in accord with his own. The first duty, therefore, of a man before allying himself with a party, is to examine its avowed principles in order to ascertain how far they agree with his own preconceived ideas.

It is by this standard we propose to examine to which of the two great political parties Irish Catholics naturally belong. We believe that our race is eminently progressive, and constitutional. We believe that our race are sincere, fervent friends of constitutional liberty, human progress, and religious toleration. We believe that they are opposed to class legislation and class distinctions—that their motto is:—All should be equal in the eye of the law, as they are in the eye of the Creator. If we are true friends of progress and reform in legislation and administration—if we