

with especial honor, those who would not change the religion of their fathers without mature deliberation and patient investigation of the declarations, and precepts, and doctrines of the infallible oracles of God. And verily we do believe in this our day, that every humble, patient, and supplicating searcher after *the truth as it is in Jesus*, shall, by the grace of God, come to the knowledge of that truth; or if an inscrutable and all-wise Providence see fit to ordain otherwise, such a one will be judged *according to that he hath, and not according to that he hath not*.

When therefore it becomes evident that a change from paternal views of religion is not the result of caprice, ignorance, fanaticism, or interestedness, but, on the contrary, of mature deliberation, patient investigation, and sound conviction that the new religion about to be embraced is more in consonance with the word of God than the hereditary religion about to be abjured; when to this may be added that such a change, so far from advancing worldly interests, or increasing worldly comforts, will, on the contrary, draw down contempt, hatred, persecution, from an infuriated party, or a vindictive hierarchy,—may perhaps expose to be *wounded in the houses of friends*, involving a sacrifice of some of the strongest and dearest feelings of our nature;—then we can no longer doubt the sincerity or judgment of the convert; we are bound to believe that he *loveth not parents or children, or brethren, or lands, or houses, or his own life in comparison of Christ*; and we throw open our arms to embrace him as a brother, and to hail his reception into the bosom of that church which both from hereditary attachment, and also from personal conviction, we conceive to be *all glorious within*, without any fanatical rejection of the outward *clothing of wrought gold*.

We have naturally been led into this train of reflections, from the consideration of the very remarkable subject which forms the title of this article.

Poor Ireland! some of our earliest and warmest friendships were formed with thy high-minded sons. Thy genius—thy spirit hath supplied our libraries with authors, our army with heroes, our senate with orators, and our cabinet with statesmen! Thou alone of the fair and smiling dominions of Great Britain appearest by some unaccountable fatality to be excluded from participating in the general happiness towards the security of which thyself hast so amply contributed. We shall ever feel an affectionate and lively interest in all that concerns thy welfare! Would to God it were in our humble power to promote it! Theorising politicians imagine that catholic emancipation (as it is styled in their misnaming vocabulary) would prove a panacea for all thy maladies! What care the inhabitants of a cabin, contented with buttermilk and potatoes, concerning the golden dreams of ambition? Will the total removal of all religious disqualification to a seat in the cabinet-council of the king, or the grand council of