

*The offender who abjures (the realm), or, on being required, refuses so to do, forfeits his goods and his lands, during life.—Idem, p. 12.*

A person who was sick for part of the time contained in an information upon this statute shall not be at all excused by reason of such sickness, if it be proved that he was recusant both before and after; for it shall be intended that he obstinately forbore during that time.—*Burn's Ecclesiastical Law.*

By such legislation was the Reformation properly prosecuted in England. Another engine or attack was misrepresentation. His Eminence Cardinal Manning well remarks that the so-called Reformation was imposed upon the English people by fraud and misrepresentation.

The illustrious occupant of the Vice-Regal throne in Canada is a descendant of one of those heroes of the faith who suffered in his property for his religious convictions. The seventh Earl of Argyll returned to the ancient faith of his ancestors. For this offence the law of confiscation was put in force, and his son, Lord Lorne, then a Protestant, became his father's heir before his death. Hence those cruel and unjust enactments were not a dead letter. But though those who conformed to the new religion saved their lives and property, how many of them suffered in silence tortures untold in the consciousness of their wrong-doing!—and how many now outside the Catholic Church are broken of heart by the uncertainty of their religion, yet have not the courage to brave the loss of friends or of goods, the reproach or the sneer, to profess before men what they profess before God in secret! With a weakness of mind, which even reason condemns, they continue attendance on a church in which they have little or no faith. This class, thanks be to God, is fast becoming less numerous.

There is a good object to be gained by the publication of these names. It will show to the weak-hearted and wavering that the most noble and learned personages, have, after prayer and self-sacrifice, entered a Church that is held up to the protesting world as corrupt and soul-destroying. That calumny is refuted at once. Those great personages would not, indeed, renounce many worldly advantages but for conscience sake, that they might securely tread the true path that leads to Heaven. We live in lands and times that boast of the religious liberty of the subject, secured by the semblance of a just legislation. One man is supposed to have nothing to do with another's conscientious convictions. But in fact an exception is *always* made of the Catholic. A man may become a Church of England Protestant, a Presbyterian, a Baptist, a Methodist, a Pacha, for that matter it matters not; but if he become a Catholic, he is considered a fool, and ranked a social outlaw. A convert to Catholicity appears to have no toleration, less rights. Well may we argue from this that he must be like his Saviour and the early Christians—"A reproach to the Jews, a folly to the Gentiles"—whilst like them he walks the narrow way that leads to eternal life.

We must not omit remarking on the social status of those who return to the Catholic Church in England. They are, in great part, persons from the highest walks of life—persons whose lives have been spent in the search after truth, with around them all the means for a perfectly rational deduction. Statesmen and scientists, men of law, men of letters, dignitaries and divines—all that is brightest in mind and purest in heart of England's people have testified before God and man that the Reformation was an error and a crime. Those noble converts must do violence to their humility by permitting the light of their good example to be placed upon a mountain that it may serve as a beacon to guide others to eternal life. They have already confessed before men by entering the Church, and Christ says that He will confess them before His Father who is in Heaven; and they again, in this little pamphlet, profess Him before hundreds of thousands of men, saying to them, with the power that experience gives, to come and find rest in that fold where alone is peace.