

Priests' heads were then as valuable as were those of wolves in the days of Alfred, and if a *saggarth* was caught by 'the Reformed' woe to him! In spite of these dangers, young men escaped to the Continent, studied in the Scots' College, Rome and at Valladolid, in Spain, studied for the priesthood. After their ordination they would return to their beloved hills to brave death and save souls. Jesuits and Irish secular priests, outlawed, and with a price set upon them dead or alive, sought this remote field for their devoted labors.

Across the rough gray waters of the Gulf of Hebrides, in many a cave and sheltered nook of the Island of South Uist, the clansmen in their belted tartans, assisted at the Holy Sacrifice and received the Bread of Heaven. Like the Israelites, they 'ate it with heir loins girt and standing,' for the morning mist rolling off Benbecula might disclose to them a watchful foe and the waves of Minch, now trembling in the dawn of day might ere the sun climbed beyond the mountains' crest, bear on their bosom the boat of the Sassenach spy. If the spy were not well attended and strongly armed it would be worse for him, for meekness and gentleness were Christian characteristics not strongly marked in this race, and they acted literally on St. Paul's injunction to be *first* pure and *then* peaceable.' Their precept was, *Luathic do liambh agus cruadhich do Chuille* 'Quicken thy hand and harden thy blows.' An amusing specimen of this spirit is handed down from the prayer of a clansman before the battle of Sheriffmuir: 'O Lord! be thou with us; but leave it between the red-coats and us!'

At last some among this chosen people of God fell, lured by the inducements of the supporters of the Elector of Hanover, as they had persistently called his Britannic majesty. Not content with embracing Calvinism themselves, they endeavored to inoculate their people. One, indeed, tried an untoward application by means of severe blows from his *Bati-bui*—or yellow walking stick—with which he hoped to induce his tenantry to repair to the Protestant meeting-house. To this day Calvinism is spoken of by the descendants of those people as *Credible a bhat bui*—the religion of the yellow stick. The tyranny of these foes of their own household, combined with the poverty and wretchedness prevailing throughout the Highlands, caused many of the MacDonalds and their Catholic neighbors to turn their thoughts to America, whence came alluring stories of plenty and peace. At home the country