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France and Spain united under Bourbon princes, and in a close family alliance, the empire of Charlamange with that of Charles V., the power which revoked the edict of Nantes and perpetrated the massacre of St. Bartholomew, with that which banished the Moriscoes and established the Inquisition, would have proved irresistible and beyond example destructive to the best interests of mankind. It was not to be, however, and the memorable victory at Blenheim established Protestant ascendancy in Europe. Self-preservation is the first law of nature, whether individually or nationally. The man who defends his own life, is simply defending that which God gave him and intended that he should preserve. The father who defends his family from the hands of an assassin, is not responsible for the life he may take, the blood he may shed, or the wounds he may inflict. The wound inflicted may be ghastly and horrible to behold, but cannot be laid to his charge who killed that he might preserve the lives of those near and dear to him. All nations feel it necessary to defend the rights of property as well as life, and conflict is a necessary result.

It is the duty of a government to defend its subjects or put them in a position to defend themselves. What would be the condition of the Protestant and loyal men of Ireland at the present time were they not guarded by a powerful army? The efforts of a weak government to pacify the rebellious and dissatisfied, proved in vain. The brutal murders perpetrated have shown beyond a doubt that the firmest measures are required, and the time for concession is not now. Justice tempered with mercy must have its course, and repression, not concession, must and will alone prevail. If a government is too weak to protect its subjects, they must take measures to preserve themselves. The Orange Association to which we belong has been charged with being the cause of strife. I believe that there is no more truth in this statement than there is in the one which is brought by infidels against Christianity, that it has been anything but peaceful. The charges are as fallacious in the one case as in the the other. That our members are not always consistent with their professions we freely admit, but black sheep are said to be found in every flock, and the disciplinary powers and laws, however good, cannot always be enforced. Those who deserve to be punished too often escape in any Association and under any form of government. That the principles of the Orange Association are in accordance with the words of the text, I know, and woe be to the man who does