

Maynooth—in all parts of the world, but the British army is slowly passing over to a foreign power. What reliance could be placed on these soldiers in the event of a foreign invasion? There is not one of them that would not obey the priest in preference to their officer; for the Rounsh doctors have laid it down, that in such conflicts of authority it is the voice of the Church that is to be obeyed; and so the invading host, instead of encountering a wall of bayonets, would find hands stretched out in welcome.

Countrymen and fellow-Christians, you are standing on the brink of a precipice. Abroad, a powerful conspiracy is forming against you. At home, the Government is unlocking the passes of your country to the enemy. They are planting salaried priests by the hundred in positions where they will be able, when the conflict comes, to wield the military force of the empire against its Protestantism. We have been sold—sold to an enemy who will have no pity upon the tender babe or the man of grey hairs, who will drag our wives and daughters into the confessional, and ourselves to prison or to the stake. Let us rouse ourselves now. The hours of our liberty are running fast out. Why wait till our arms are bound? Let us now concert measures of defence, while yet we can speak and act as freemen. From this hour let us proclaim a truce to all the differences, conflicts, and projects of mere party; let us, henceforth, and till the great battle be over, know but one great all-absorbing cause, and let our united rallying cry be, "Save our country!" Let us unite in a sacred bond or oath, binding ourselves to God and to one another, never to rest, never to lay down our arms, till we shall have carried the two following objects:—

1. That not a penny of the nation's money shall be given to a priest of the Church of Rome, or to any purpose connected with that Church. We shall not be provoked to act towards the members of that church as she acts to us. We shall still pay homage to the great principle of toleration: but we have gone far beyond the line of tolerating; we have endowed. We must compel our Government to retrace its steps. We must have no Popish colleges endowed out of the nation's funds; no Popish chaplains in the army; no Popish chaplains in the prisons and poor-houses; no lands, emoluments, and titles to Popish priests in the colonies; not a popish priest anywhere in the whole empire drawing

a revenue from the exchequer of a Protestant country. We must insist on the return of our Government within the strict line of toleration. The demand is a just and righteous one, and, if made firmly by a united people, it will be impossible to resist it. Let us swear that we will never rest till we have obtained that demand.

But, second, we must demand of Rome, and of all Papal governments, the liberty she demands of us. To this the church of Rome cannot in reason object. We are glad to find that a conference of leading Protestants in Germany, France, Switzerland, and England, just held at Homburg, has taken up this position—conference sent a deputation to the German *Kirchentag*, with a letter of instructions, bearing the signature of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and powerfully supported by Dr. Merle D'Aubigne, containing this famous declaration:—"We think that the time is come when Rome should not be allowed to prevent others from obtaining that liberty which Rome claims for herself." Why should not a general union be formed amongst the Protestants of America, Britain, and Germany, for the attainment of this object? We shall not use force, but we shall say to foreign governments, We can enter into no treaty, no alliance with you: we can give you no help in war, we cannot trade with you, we must withdraw our ambassadors and consuls from you, and place you beyond the pale of our friendship and recognition, provided you refuse to our subjects in your country the same rights and privileges which you demand for your subjects in ours. Such a demand firmly made by the combined Protestants of America, of Britain, and Germany, could not be refused; or, if refused, what harm would it do us? With the hourly-expanding area of civilisation and freedom around us—with Australia, and India, and China, and America, all open or opening to us, surely we can spare so insignificant a portion of the globe as Papal Europe has now become. Let us then shake hands with America on the one side, and Germany on the other, that we will give and receive toleration from Rome.

A great crisis like this cannot be got over by half measures. We call on all Protestants to combine, under a sacred pledge, never to rest till they have carried these two points. Let no man hold himself discharged in this war. The feeblest can lift up his voice and swell