

The choicest of Ireland's sons would gladly lay down their lives in defence of the sacred rights of Catholicity. They would be proud to display that native bravery and military genius that has rendered them famous the world over,—they would be proud to display it in driving back the infidel hordes that are now waging war against the church of Christ. And the pages of her history that she would cherish most, would be those that would recount the dauntless deeds of her sons, as they poured forth their blood in an effort to protect that church from despoliation and perfidy.

And, gentlemen, it is worthy of remark that Ireland's loyalty to the successor of Peter, is not less profound or less enthusiastic to-day, when she is about to enter upon that period of complete national prosperity and peace, for which she has so long and so valiantly fought,—it is worthy of remark that that loyalty is as sincere to-day as it ever was. A few years ago His Eminence Cardinal Vannutelli, who had been sent by the then reigning pope Léon XIII, of glorious memory, as Papal Legate to Ireland, thus made acknowledgement of the wonderful reception, of which he had everywhere been made the object;—

“Ireland has ever been primarily distinguished in its attachment to the Holy see, in its demonstration of fealty to the throne of Peter; and I know,—and have often said it—all the manifestations I have witnessed in my tour through your beautiful country, have been proofs, yes, abundant proofs of your great, grand holy faith, of your unaltered and unalterable fidelity to our Holy Father, the Pope.”

May Irishmen the world over, for all time to come, be faithful to the glorious example that has been left to them by their ancestors; may they always find themselves worthy of such a magnificent tribute as that distinguished prelate Cardinal Richard, lately paid to the inhabitants of the Emerald Isle, in a letter addressed to the Irish Episcopate, thanking them for the kind expression of sympathy that they had sent to the Catholics of France.

In that letter the Cardinal says:—“Amongst all the children of the Church, the Irish have given the most striking proofs of constancy..... May we, by a courage as persevering as yours, be able to win back the liberty which you now enjoy. Your O'Connell, who was its most eloquent defender, wished that his heart should rest in Rome. That is the symbol of your unalter-