

If Catholicism has been the cause of all those centuries of persecution with which the Irish people have been afflicted, and has also been the secret of their national strength; if it has brought them untold consolation in their miseries, and has been the source of their unparalleled national grandeur, it was one of the predecessors of Pius X that commissioned Patrick to bring that religion to them; and unflinching loyalty to the Head of the Church, on the part of the Irish, wherever they may be found, has been, ever since, characteristic of them. And to-day, when the Sovereign Pontiff finds himself surrounded by enemies, who are continually seeking to despoil the Church of her rights and properties, persecuted Ireland sends messages to the Prisoner of the Vatican expressing her indignation at the injustice that is being perpetrated against him, and the Irish public representatives make open protest against the outrageous violation of the solemn compact that existed between Rome and France.

A few years ago His Eminence Cardinal Vannutelli, who had been sent by Leo XIII as Papal Legate to Ireland, paid a beautiful tribute to that country's devotion to Rome. Acknowledging the wonderful reception everywhere accorded to him, he said: "Ireland has ever been primarily distinguished in her attachment to the Holy See, and all the manifestations I have witnessed in my tour through your beautiful country have been abundant proofs of your grand, holy faith, of your unshaken and unalterable fidelity to our Holy Father, the Pope." The late Cardinal Richard spoke in similar terms: "Amongst all the children of the Church," he wrote, "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. This is the symbol of your unalterable attachment to the Holy See. We ask God for strength to imitate your admirable fidelity." Let us hope, gentlemen, that Ireland will always remain what she is to-day and has ever been since she embraced Christianity—the faithful and submissive child of Rome. May the illustrious Pius X, the worthy successor of the great Leo XIII, find in her a source of solace and support in the midst of his tribulations, and may she, until the end of time, be foremost among the nations of the earth in unswerving allegiance to the Sovereign Pontiff.

Mr. V. K. O'Gorman responded thus to Canada: