

present day, that the present condition of Ireland is normal to her chief religion—that is, the poverty and vassalage of the masses agrees to and with Catholicism. No other state of things ever existed for the last eleven hundred years wherever this Church had absolute control. Spain is an example to-day, and Italy has been a terrible witness of the same truth. Italy, the centre and home of this Church for hundreds of years, what, I ask, has been her condition? According to the census of 1864, out of a total population of 21,703,710 there were 16,999,701 who could neither read nor write. Spain was equally bad.

A man who wants to do a good thing for Ireland must set to work to change her chief religion. "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, *and all other things shall be added.*" If the Hon. Charles Parnell would become a convert to Israel's identification, he might do Ireland more good, and the world too. This theory speaks freedom, liberty, progress and sovereignty of conscience, that would soon give to Ireland her needed reforms. We should remember that events are like icebergs, more out of sight than in. I have seen in the North Sea large icebergs going against wind and wave. How were they propelled, you ask? They were deeply sunk, and thus they were borne along by an under current. So events are sunk in Providence. The winds above and opposing waves cannot stay their march. With all the winds of oratory and waves of passion Ireland is moving on against them to her God-appointed goal, and the prophets have revealed to us the course of some of these hidden providential currents.

I have spoken freely again on this irritating subject. I count myself a friend of all; would not hurt a hair of the head of Protestant or Catholic. Let us fight these questions with free tongues, clear heads and loving hearts, and all will come right in God's own time. By my freedom I probably shall have offended some. Some will say: "Well, I will never enter that church again." All right, go in peace; you will hardly be missed out of a crowd like this. If you go to some weak church, your presence and number both will tell more than here. God bless old Ireland! God help the English Government; and God bless us all. Amen.