

ed Churches in all these countries, as we find amply attested in Lanagan's ecclesiastical history. The English even to this day, stand indebted to the Irish for the establishment of their celebrated college of Oxford, founded by John Scotus: as well as that of Padua to the same; that of Paris to Claudius Clemens: and thus did Ireland deal around the riches of her stores, unsparingly to the nations that seemed to stand in need of her assistance; and thus she flourished, with every virtue blessed, until she became united with her sister England.

Hitherto, my brethren, we have seen the infant state of Ireland; we have continued to examine her till we saw the sunshine of gospel light illumine the darker horizon around her; and such were the blessings she enjoyed in the reign of Henry II: but, my dearest brethren, you have ample room to ask if her virtues were so conspicuous, and her national independence so superlatively great, if her religion was so holy and her sons so brave, if her hospitality be proverbial and her faith be sincere, with her pride and her wealth, her glory and fame, how is it that the persecuting lust of oppression waves over her, while dissention preys on her vitals: what crimes has she committed to merit six centuries of pain and penalties? why does she sustain the fangs of confiscation, and why is she braved by the flaming sword of dreadful persecution? Has she plighted her faith, forsworn her honor or denied her allegiance? Has her sons appeared in arms against the state, or taken part with the common enemy? or was her faith, her honor, her power, her past services, to be rejected and despised without a just or reasonable cause? Could the pretext for such cruelty be caprice? Could maddening ambition rise to such a height without being restrained by the self conviction, that such wanton