

Church at that time. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Kerry, Dr. Moriarty, in a letter to his clergy in the year 1867, advocating Disestablishment, writes :—"It must be said, and we say it with pleasure, for we rejoice in all that is good, that in every relation of life the Protestant clergy, who reside amongst us, are not only blameless, but estimable and edifying. They are peaceful with all, and to their neighbours they are kind when they can ; and we know that on many occasions they would be more active in beneficence but that they do not wish to appear meddling, or incur the suspicion of tampering with poor Catholics. In bearing, in manners, and in dress they become their state. If they are not learned theologians, they are accomplished scholars and polished gentlemen. There is little intercourse between them and us, but they cannot escape our observation ; and sometimes when we notice that quiet and decorous and moderate course of life, we feel ourselves giving expression to the wish, *Talis cum sis utinam noster esses.*" Let me add to these testimonies that of Mr. Gladstone himself, when, in opposition to the Conservative Government in 1868, he brought in his resolutions and bill for suspending appointments in the Church of Ireland which was passed by majorities in the Commons, but rejected by the Lords. I have stated briefly the sad condition of the Church at the opening of the century ; and I have sketched for you the harassing agitation and enactments in relation to her temporalities during the whole period while she lay prostrate under the cupidity of her enemies in Ireland, and the temporizing policy of parties in the Imperial Parliament, gagged by the Act of Union, and unable to consult, much less to legislate, even for her own spiritual needs. Yet we find within her a power of spiritual life, which had inspired her clergy with a holy zeal ; had reformed her laity, and lifted them out of the slough of a profligate age ; had educated her children in the great verities of Holy Scripture ; and made her in the day of her extreme adversity an object of veneration even to those who laid sacrilegious hand upon her.

PROGRESS SINCE DISESTABLISHMENT.

I have now to set before you very briefly some evidences