

electoral franchise, trial by jury, the right of entering into the professions and of receiving their education in the colleges of the land. Noble-minded, brave-hearted Grattan ! He rejoiced at this victory of Tolerance over Persecution. Little indeed did he think of what the future had in store. Bigotry was not conquered. It had only raised a flag of truce beneath whose white folds it might advance its deep-laid plans against an unsuspecting foe. While Ireland, too, was rejoicing—ah, why could she never learn to read between the lines?—and all unsuspecting, was enjoying the benefits of her demi-emancipation, Parliament passed an Arms Act which legalized the forcible entrance into private dwellings in search of arms. This act aimed at the confiscation of all the arms in the hands of the Irish and at the disbanding of the Volunteers, the one bulwark of Irish liberty, the one menace to English ascendancy in the Island. The volunteers disbanded, all the arms in the country seized—what danger was there now for the land whose “flag had braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze”? Pitt rejoiced with rejoicing because the way lay clear for the accomplishment of his cowardly designs. To achieve his pet project—the legislative union of England and Ireland—was only a matter of time. “The Irish have no arms; harass them persecute them, *goad them on to rebellion*; then we’ll strip them of both their liberty and their independence”: was there ever a plot more diabolical concocted outside the gates of hell? Yet such was the plan adopted by the cold blooded Minister Minister and his myrmidons of Dublin Castle. Henceforward, every motion in Parliament tending to better the condition of the Catholics was ignominiously voted down while coercive legislation went on apace until Grattan and the friends of liberty, quitted in despair those halls from which justice itself had fled. Orange outrages, too, came to aggravate the situation. The insulted, injured, outraged populace seeing no means of redress, sought a doubtful shelter behind the veil of secret societies which began to multiply with marvellous rapidity. The spirit of insurrection stalked abroad: England had scored another point. One bold move more and the Irish would be goaded into open rebellion. That move was made without hesitation, without scruple—Ireland was placed under military law. Judges, pardoned before hand for