

than the old groups of seven churches which they found here and there. The churches had in these cases been multiplied by the people in the greatness of their love and the strength of their faith, that they might have Our Lord Jesus Christ present seven times where once would have been sufficient for others. Had that spirit faded away, had that national characteristic changed? No. The last fifty-two years, since the passing of the Emancipation Act, had witnessed their poverty, their misery, their native Parliament taken from them, their metropolis fail by the withdrawal of the nobility of the land. Their native industry was destroyed by the ruthless laws of William of Orange. Famine and desolation swept over the land, confusion and foolish attempts at rebellion brought down the heavy hand upon their people. Perhaps in the history of the world there was no country or no people who had suffered more during the last fifty-two years than the people of Ireland; and yet the day that saw them allowed the free exercise of their religion saw them forgetful of their poverty, forgetful of their persecution, forgetful of their misery, and they had built more churches than all the rest of the nations throughout the wide world. The Irish people were to be found scattered in exile in every land, and wherever they went they showed the same national characteristic. But there was another and more touching trait, and it was this: there was no people in the Church of God who up to the present time at least—for he trembled when he looked to the future; he trembled and shuddered and cast himself down before God and from his innermost heart asked him to take that life of his rather than let him see the Irish people change their religion or lose their faith—

HAD SHOWN SUCH A DEVOTION TO THE HOLY MASS.

The French, Italian, and, he regretted to say, Spanish Catholics looked upon the Sunday Mass as an easy matter; but the Irish Catholics at home at least would let neither storms nor misery keep them from Sunday's Mass. St. Patrick preached another doctrine that went far to form the character of the Irish people, and it was the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. The virtues of the Virgin Mother had been their ideal of the type of a woman; and the Irish woman for ages and ages had been the solitary light and brightest glory of an afflicted race, combining in herself a mother's love and a maiden's purity. Nowhere in the world would they find a womanhood so grand, so pure, so