

more during the two centuries of their supremacy to convert the Irish people, and if the Church of England had not bred more Popery these last thirty years than all other denominations together. Bulwark of Protestantism, indeed! What is it worth if it be so eaten with *dry rot* that it will fall under its own weight the moment it is deprived of State support?

The *Saturday Review* well remarks upon this point:—

“Here is a religion which has had all the advantages of State support for three centuries, which is professed by persons holding nine-tenths of the Irish soil, and which, as its friends allege, is secured by the impassioned support of all the most intelligent, thriving, and prosperous part of the Irish population; and yet it is going to die out like the wick of a burnt-up candle if it is now placed on an equality with other religions! Supposing the Irish Protestants really believed in Irish Protestantism, would they dishonour their religion by the most distant approach to stating anything of the sort? They profess, further, to believe that, besides these great eternal and mundane advantages, they have got the overwhelming spiritual advantage of being in exclusive possession of the truth. The Gospel in its purity is committed to their sole charge, and yet this embodiment of truth, this genuine unadulterated Gospel, backed up by almost all the landed wealth of the country, by the inherited traditions of centuries, and by the vast preponderance of Irish education and Irish industrial energy, is to melt away like dew before the sun, unless the secular arm of the State will throw down all its adversaries before it. No body of sincere and moderately intelligent Protestants ever before spoke with such outrageous contempt of Protestantism. If they are right, they have got hold of the most puny, rickety abortion of a religion that ever offered itself as the child of the spiritual longings of civilised man.”

It is only just to say, however, that the Irish clergy have been much less corrupted by Puseyism than their brethren in England, but that very consideration only gives us the more confidence that disestablishment, instead of destroying, or even weakening, the church, will tend, as it has done in this country, to infuse new life into it, and give it an influence that it never could have so long as it was supported by taxes exacted from an unwilling people.

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#### NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC, FOR THE YEAR 1868-9.

The year under review is a remarkable one in the history of Congregationalism in these Provinces. There have been more accessions to membership on profession of faith, more accessions to our ministerial force, more pastoral changes, and perhaps more noteworthy circumstances than in any former year. On a review of the year, we may say emphatically that God has been with us. Most of the changes we note have been pleasing ones; and the blessing of growth in the churches by conversions from the world, is one we would all wish and pray for in connection with every one of the churches.