

houses reduced to ashes, their property plundered and destroyed, and themselves helpless and exposed to the severity of a Canadian winter, without shelter, food or raiment, perishing with cold, and starving with hunger.

It is by viewing and reflecting on the misfortunes and miseries that generally follow in the train of disloyalty and rebellion that we can best appreciate the happy effects and blessings of a peaceable and loyal conduct. It is no small cause of exultation to you and to your friends, that hardly a Catholic has been found among the agitators to rebellion, or in the ranks of the rebels, in Upper Canada.

I am aware that those who are not acquainted with the Irish character, or are prejudiced against it, indulge in representing it as riotous and rebellious; but, in order to refute this unjust and vile charge, I shall produce the testimonies of protestant gentlemen, who had the best opportunities of knowing the Irish character, and whose veracity is beyond suspicion.

Sir John Davis, who had been Attorney-general in Ireland, and afterwards Chief Justice of the King's Bench in England, says, "The Irish are more fearful to offend the laws than the English, or any nation whatsoever; in the condition of subjects, they will gladly continue as long as they may be protected and justly governed without oppression."

His Excellency Sir John Harvey, the present Lieutenant-governor of New Brunswick, (whose achievements at Stoney Creek, Lundy's Lane, Chrysler's Farm and other places in this province, have erected monuments to his fame, which will last as long as the British power will be acknowledged in the Canadas, and remain engraved on the hearts of Canadians to the end of time,) in answer to the address of the Society of St. Patrick, says, "Gentlemen, your address is truly Irish; it goes direct to the heart, from whence it evidently proceeds: though not an Irishman myself, I passed many happy years in Ireland, and the circumstances in which I was placed, during my residence in that country, gave me peculiar facilities for correctly appreciating the worth of the Irish character. I publicly said upon a former occasion, treat an Irishman with strict justice and a little kindness, and you will attach him to you with all the ardour of his warm-hearted nature. Justice, he, in common with all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, feels a well-founded confidence of receiving under the protection of our unrivalled Constitution, in every part of the British dominions; and kindness, when needed, he feels equally assured of experiencing from the Throne. Hence his ardent loyalty to the one, and his devoted attachment to the other." I will also mention to you the substance of a conversation which took place between a Texan general who visited Kingston last summer, and two gentlemen of this town. One of these gentlemen, who had been formerly acquainted with the general in the Mississippi, amongst other questions, inquired of him what had become of the catholic Irish colony which had been settled in Texas for several years, and had possessed a fine tract of land in that country. The answer was, that they had been almost annihilated, for they had been the most formidable enemies the invaders had to encounter, and fought most desperately for the Mexican government; and this tallies pretty much with the declaration of an American citizen, who asserted not many weeks ago, in the court-house of this town, when questioned by one of our magistrates, "that the sympathisers had many friends of different denominations in this province, who would readily join them in the cause of liberty, but as to the Catholics, they had no dependence on them."

Thus have Catholics established their character of loyalty and fidelity to every government under which they live, not by declarations of loyalty and loyal addresses which we see crowding the columns of the public prints of the day, but by their actions and the general tenor of their conduct. In testimony of this truth, we see that the catholic Canadians of the western district, free from the pestiferous delusions of seducers, and listening to the admonitions of their pastors, exhibit full as much loyalty and bravery in encountering the brigands and invaders of their country, as any portion of their fellow-colonists.

It will be no small satisfaction to you, my friends, to be assured, that in no class of Her Majesty's subjects in Upper Canada does his Excellency, our present just and impartial Lieutenant-governor, Sir George Arthur, repose more trust and confidence than in Catholics, as is evidently shown by the fact, that at this moment no fewer than nine regiments of militia and volunteers are under the command of Catholics, besides the great number of Catholics who are appointed to companies in other regiments, and to other situations of high trust and honour.

That you may always deserve and possess the confidence and favour of your country and your Sovereign, and receive the reward of your loyalty and fidelity, with the blessing of Heaven, is the never-ceasing prayer of your spiritual father, your affectionate friend, and devoted humble servant in our Lord Jesus Christ.

(signed) *Alexander Macdonnell,*
Bishop of Kingston.

Kingston, 1 December 1838.