

Lord Palmerston.

Lord Palmerston drew a graphic picture of the effects of the penal laws upon Ireland, where, as he said, "they deemed the Catholic a dangerous and ferocious beast of prey, and like a beast of prey, they hunted him out from the pale of civilization, and drove him back to his native fastnesses and wilds." "If" he went on "an ingenious tormentor of the human race had wished to inflict upon a nation the misery of perpetual dissension, what more could he have done than establish that order of things which exists in Ireland—a people, active, sensitive, intelligent, divided into two very unequal portions; separated by the soul-stirring distinction of religious opinions; the small minority invested with civil ascendancy and exclusive political authority; the large majority condemned to exclusion, deprivation and civil degradation. * *

If I wished to convince an impartial Englishman of the policy of repealing these laws, I should bid him repair to the south of Ireland; to mix with the Catholic gentry; to converse with the Catholic peasantry; to witness the open and undisguised discontent of the former; to probe to the bottom the more concealed, but not less deeply rankling passions of the latter; to see what a fierce and unsocial spirit bad laws engender; and how impossible it is to degrade a people without at the same time demoralizing them too. But if this should fail to convince him, and his judgment still hung in the balance of doubt, I should then tell him to go among the Protestants of the north. There he would see how noble and generous natures may be corrupted by the possession of undue and inordinate ascendancy; there he would see how men, naturally kind and benevolent, can be brought up from their earliest infancy to hate the great majority of their countrymen with all the bitterness which neighborhood and consanguinity infuse into quarrels, and not satisfied with the disputes of the days in which they live, raking up the ashes of the dead for food to their angry passions; summoning the shades of departed centuries to give a keener venom to the contests of the present age; and as if the reigns of the House of Hanover were not sufficiently fruitful in causes of mutual offence, studiously keeping alive the memory of those unhappy events which afflicted their country in the days of the Stuarts. These things indeed afford a melancholy proof how true it is, that the evil which men do lives after them, and ought to us to be a salutary warning how we give an enduring and permanent existence to the passions and resentments or alarms of the day."—Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, vol. 20, pp. 1246-7.

Sir Robert Peel.

Sir Robert Peel, in explaining the provisions of the bill, glanced forward at what he hoped would be its results: "God grant," he said, "that the sanguine expectations of those who for so many years have advised this settlement, may be fulfilled! God grant that the removal of the disabilities that have so long affected our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects may be attended by the desired effect, and assuage the civil contentions of Ireland; that by the admission of the Roman Catholics to a full and equal participation in civil rights, and by the establishment of a free and cordial intercourse between all classes of His Majesty's subjects, mutual jealousies may be removed; and that we may be taught, instead of looking at each other as adversaries and opponents, to respect and value each other, and to discover the existence of qualities on both sides that were not attributed to either!"—Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, vol. 20, p. 778.

Marquis of Anglesey.

The Marquis of Anglesey, who had but recently been Viceroy of Ireland, said: "I will suppose, however, that we are absolutely at war, and that there is a combination of the powers of Europe—no very unlikely contingency—against us. I then say that it would be madness in any administration not to throw 70,000 men immediately into Ireland. I should be sorry, with all the power of steam to convey troops from the continent, and all the advantages which modern science has recently introduced into the art of war, I should be sorry, I say, to see Ireland with so scanty a garrison in time of