

blish a mother's crimes; no where do they inflict a deeper, more rankling wound than in her own child's heart. Never have I been able to bring myself to fully peruse, it is too painful even faintly to remember the sad history of Ireland's wrongs.

The stranger shall hear thy lament on his plains,
The sound of the harp shall be sent o'er the deep,
Till thy masters themselves as they rivet thy chains,
Shall pause at the song of the captive and weep.

Besides, dear brethren, this is not the place, nor does it be-
hoove the sacred character which privileges me to speak to
you to-day to harrow up past injuries. Neither would it be
a compliment to yourselves, for the Irish are a generous, and
above all a christian people, they have forgiven, they do for-
give, and it is their best wish to make every effort to forget.
The 16th, 17th and 18th centuries have procured for Ireland
the martyr's crown. They witnessed those sanguinary per-
secutions, those wholesale confiscations, those atrocious laws,
those laws of which the celebrated Burke has said "none better
fitted for the impoverishment and degradation of a people ever
proceeded from the perverted ingenuity of man," monasteries,
institutions of learning were ruthlessly destroyed. The ever
faithful people assisted at mass with guards placed on distant
hills and under no other canopy than the blue vault of heaven
and yet, Ireland arose; arose, holding in her hand, grasping
more firmly than before, that cross now more dearly loved
since dyed with the purple stain of her own sons' blood.

The time of penal enactments had not yet entirely passed
away when the nation showed the strength of its faith as soon
as it was in its power to do so. The cold of winter would seem
to have destroyed all verdure, and to have deprived the earth
of its vegetating power, yet scarcely doth the spring make its
genial heat appear, when the shrubs and flowers budding forth
prove that the power was only dormant, and enables it to show
itself with greater vigor by the beauty and luxuriance of its
new productions. So with the faith of Ireland, when the day
of comparative peace and prosperity began to dawn, the num-
ber of churches and institutions of charity dotting over the land
gave clear proof of the power and strength of the faith which
had existed all the while. But another severe test was to be
applied to her fidelity, force having been tried in vain, by offers
of false patronage, efforts were made to lay hands upon that