

UNDER THE ENGLISH CROWN

itself? The answer belongs to the last dramatic incident of its pathetic history—a history as heroic as an ancient epic.

In the great crises of human life personality is laid bare to the quick, forcing the real essence of character to the surface. When the destiny of Wales had come to its last pass, the eternal idealism which burned at the heart of Celtic genius leapt into a great revivifying flame. The race, withdrawn from agricultural interests, and fascinated by thoughts of death, the unknown, and the beyond, was singularly religious. Religious enthusiasm also was the first sign of returning life, stimulated by a clergy who, poor and insufficient as they were, came from the people and had the same sympathies as their parishioners. They fought against Anglican indifference, against this Church so greatly political and so feebly religious, whose clergy were strangers to their own worshippers in thought, feeling, and language. The religious movement was both national and Nonconformist. It is not possible here to follow either its methods or its progress. It is usual to associate its origin with the name of Griffith Jones of Llandowrar, but