

B. W. Matthias whose name was a household word in Dublin, and whose successor was the late Bishop John Gregg. Stopford, in Donegal; Tighe, in Down; John Quarry, in Cork, and others stirred the hearts of the people to seek a higher and purer life. The leaders of the movement were not in favour with the authorities of the Church in those days; and this, perhaps, led in some measure to that which was a weakness in the movement—neglect of teaching the people the great benefits derived from the membership and ordinances of the Church. Thus, men were induced to regard preaching of the evangelical doctrine as the only great means of grace; and when the exemplars were removed, the Nonconformists profited by the withdrawal of many earnest men from the communion of the Church. Without doubt, however, the evangelical revival helped to imbue Irish Churchmen with a more earnest and faithful spirit, and led to greater influence in the cause of peace and charity throughout the land.

DISESTABLISHMENT ACT 1869.

Time will not permit me to dwell on the influences which led to the Act of Disestablishment of 1869. Froude thus speaks of them:—"At the time when the Irish clergy were put to the bar of judgment they had extricated themselves from their shame. For the last fifty years there had been no body of men in the whole Empire who had been doing their duty more loyally and admirably. The peasantry, even the Catholic peasantry, loved and trusted them. They had ceased to be a grievance. There was no cry for their Disestablishment. No one had asked for it; no one had wished for it—except perhaps the Catholic Hierarchy—and the authorities can say how far the Catholic Hierarchy has shown itself effectively grateful. If Mr. Gladstone had spared his taunts, and had left the Church alone, English influence might, perhaps, not have sunk to its present level. Other motives were working in the Cabinet—false dice have more than once been used in playing with the fortunes of Ireland. The Liberal party needed to be re-organised, and Disestablishment was a convenient subject to bring the sections of it into harmony." Let me give one other testimony to the character of the clergy of the