

The inference that has been drawn in many non-Catholic quarters is that the drain of population which has been going on during the decade has been practically confined to Catholics; that the Protestants of the North are not leaving Ireland, because the North is prosperous and contented; and that it is only in the Catholic South and West that there is discontent, and consequent emigration. A detailed examination of the figures, however, completely shatters this comforting theory. The examination has been made by a contributor to the *Belfast Irish Weekly*; and the result of his analysis—given in two special and carefully-written articles—is to show that, outside Belfast City, the Protestant communities in the North of Ireland are decreasing in numbers far more rapidly than their Catholic neighbours. The preponderant percentage of all-round Catholic loss is accounted for by the emigration from the Catholic centres of Munster and Connaught. 'In the East, South, and West of Ireland,' says the writer, 'Episcopalians and Presbyterians do not emigrate; they belong to sections of the community who are not greatly affected by industrial conditions: as a rule, they are not numbered amongst the "labouring classes," who furnish 95 per cent. of those who "seek their fortunes overseas." Then, the increased population of Belfast accounts for part of the advantage displayed in the above figures. But let us travel away from Belfast and the Counties directly affected by its proximity, and take typical Ulster areas outside it.'

The writer takes first the County of Derry—the sets of figures in this, as in all the other cases, being taken from the official census of 1901 and the Registrar-General's 'Preliminary Report, with Abstract, of the Census Returns for 1911.' Here are the comparative figures for County Derry, the returns, for the sake of convenience, being restricted to the three leading denominations:—

|               | Catholic. | Episcopalian. | Presbyterian. |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1901 ...      | 65,296    | 27,804        | 46,682        |
| 1911 ...      | 64,436    | 27,080        | 43,191        |
| Decrease      | 860       | 724           | 3,491         |
| Decrease p.c. | 1.2       | 2.6           | 7.4           |

Here, where, above all, the Unionist 'leaders' have tried to persuade their dupes that Protestantism prospers under the Castle régime, the Episcopalian population has decreased at more than double the rate of Catholic decrease, and the Presbyterians have lost (in proportion) over six times more than the Catholics. Next comes Tyrone, with the following figures:—

|               | Catholic. | Episcopalian. | Presbyterian. |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1901 ...      | 84,404    | 33,896        | 29,656        |
| 1911 ...      | 78,935    | 32,283        | 26,540        |
| Decrease      | 5,469     | 1,613         | 3,116         |
| Decrease p.c. | 6.4       | 4.8           | 10.5          |

Tyrone County is evidently not in a satisfactory state. The Catholic decrease is three times the average for the Catholic population of all Ireland; the Episcopalians have fallen at a rate nearly five times greater than their general average; the Presbyterian decrease is more than thirteen times their all-round average. 'The Presbyterian decrease in Tyrone,' aptly remarks the *Irish Weekly* writer, 'should really persuade the General Assembly that everything is not for the best under the best of all Administrations in this northern county.' Turning to the almost entirely agricultural county of Cavan, the official documents give the following figures:—

|               | Catholic. | Episcopalian. | Presbyterian. |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1901 ...      | 79,026    | 14,122        | 3,220         |
| 1911 ...      | 74,188    | 12,954        | 2,920         |
| Decrease      | 4,838     | 1,168         | 300           |
| Decrease p.c. | 6.1       | 8.2           | 9.6           |

Here, while the Catholic population of Cavan has fallen nearly as heavily, in proportion, as Tyrone, the

Episcopalians have diminished at little less than twice the Tyrone rate, and the Presbyterians have lost nearly as heavily as in Tyrone—or more than 50 per cent. over the Catholic standard of loss in Cavan.

Finally, we have the following interesting and significant figures regarding Donegal:—

|               | Catholic. | Episcopalian. | Presbyterian. |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 1901 ...      | 135,009   | 19,908        | 16,212        |
| 1911 ...      | 132,943   | 17,975        | 15,064        |
| Decrease      | 2,066     | 1,933         | 1,148         |
| Decrease p.c. | 1.5       | 9.7           | 7.0           |

'Donegal,' comments the writer, 'is one of the poorest of Ireland's counties; and the Catholic population have occupied the poorest and wildest parts of the Irish Highlands ever since the clansmen of O'Donnell were driven from the richer lands of the East and South-East of Red Hugh's territory to make room for James I.'s "planters." But the Catholic Celts are holding their own in Donegal; they are not yet as scarce in that brave old fortress of freedom as "the Red Indians on the shores of Manhattan." Perhaps the General Assembly—and Episcopalian clergymen like the Rev. Mr. Kerr—will explain how it is that 7 per cent. of the Presbyterians and 9.7 per cent. of the Episcopalians who were in Donegal ten years ago have disappeared. They did not fly from Home Rule. They were not "persecuted." They were as free as their co-religionists in Belfast or Portadown. But they have melted away, as the people melt from every country governed by strangers.' In the face of the above figures, what is to be thought of the brains of the noisy fanatics who talk about 'taking up arms,' and fighting, and killing their neighbours, in defence of a system of government under which such results are brought about.'

## THE IRISH ENVOYS IN SYDNEY

### WELCOMED BY CARDINAL MORAN

The Irish envoys, Messrs. R. Hazleton, M.P., W. A. Redmond, M.P., and J. T. Donovan, who left Wellington on July 28, arrived in Sydney on August 1. As they stepped off the steamer on to the wharf they were greeted by a band of prominent Irish citizens. They then drove to the Hotel Australia, and later were entertained at luncheon by his Eminence the Cardinal at St. Mary's Cathedral Presbytery.

The luncheon to the envoys at St. Mary's Presbytery was, of course, presided over by his Eminence the Cardinal, Messrs. Hazleton, Redmond, and Donovan occupying the places of honor on either side of him at the head of the table. Amongst the guests were District Court Judge Edmunds, Sir William P. Manning, Hon. John Meagher and Dr. J. B. Nash, M's.L.C., Major P. W. Fallon (Officer Commanding Irish Rifles), Mr. P. McGarry, M.L.A., Dr. C. McCarthy, and several of the clergy.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran congratulated the envoys on the success of their mission so far, and wished it increasing success in its continuance. In olden times it was said that nothing succeeded like success. Already they had met with unparalleled success, and, entering on their mission in Queensland and the other States, he was sure they would receive the same enthusiastic welcome and ever increasing funds as had characterised their itinerary through New Zealand. It was not surprising that such success would attend their campaign, as they were advocating a cause which had, not only the sympathy of the Irish race, the sea-divided Gael, the whole world over, but the sympathy and confidence of all the enlightened nations of the present day. And not only were they advocating a great cause, but they were the representatives of the Irish Parliamentary Party, whose advocacy of that noble cause had won the applause of Christendom. It was a wonderful thing to see how in the ages succeeding the apostolate of St. Patrick, that little island of the West, so small