

**THE STORY OF THE IRISH CHURCH
MISSIONS. AN ACCOUNT OF THE
PROVIDENTIAL PREPARATION WHICH LED
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOCIETY
FOR IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS TO THE
ROMAN CATHOLICS IN 1849, PART I**

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The story of the Irish church missions. An account of the providential preparation which led to the establishment of the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics in 1849, Part I by Alex. Dallas

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ALEX. DALLAS

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PART I.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE PROVIDENTIAL PREPARATION
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SOCIETY FOR IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS
TO THE ROMAN CATHOLICS
IN 1849.

BY THE REV. ALEX. DALLAS, M.A.,

RECTOR OF WOXSTON, HANTS,
AND HONORARY SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

“The very hairs of your head are all numbered.”—MATT. X. 30.
“Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man’s
hand. . . . And there was a great rain.”—1 KINGS XVIII. 44, 45.

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PREFACE.

IN giving a history of the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics, in order that a correct impression should be conveyed, it was absolutely necessary to explain in detail the very first links in the chain of events which led to its formation. This will account for the authorship having devolved on me, as none other was intimately acquainted with the minute circumstances of the preparatory steps. This also will serve as an apology for the personal character of the narrative.

The Chapters have been published periodically in the "Banner of the Truth;" but

it has been felt that the interval between the publications breaks the current of interest in the whole. The account of what may be considered the Providential preparation for the organized development of the movement occupies fifteen chapters, twelve of which are found in the pages of the "Banner." They are now published together, as the first part of the history of the Society.

The events recorded in this Volume are sufficient to prove that the preparation in the minds of the Roman Catholics of Ireland for receiving Scriptural instruction existed before the famine of 1847. That calamitous event did not produce the desire to receive the teaching of truth from Protestant sources, though it tended to remove many prejudices, and so to increase the feeling which already existed. The records in these pages will also show, that in spite of the prejudices and fanaticism of some, the Roman Catholics of Ireland can be approached with the teaching of the true gospel in distinct antagonism to the religious notions in which they have been

nurtured, without provoking that measure of violence and danger which some have feared. Honesty of purpose kindly shown, combined with patient endurance of opposition in good temper, will ensure such a hearing as gives encouraging hope of some success, which, by the blessing of God, is always realized. This is abundantly proved in the following narrative; and when the second part shall appear, detailing the operations of the Society which was formed in consequence of these events, an immense amount of additional proof will be shown.

It is greatly to be regretted that, with all this evidence, the means for carrying on the work placed at the disposal of the Committee should be so inadequate to the requirements of the case. Of all the attempts made to pacify Ireland and benefit the Irish people, none have been crowned with such success as have the efforts of the Irish Church Missions; and if ten times the amount at present employed were contributed by Protestant Christians for this work, the results already

obtained justify the expectation that the blessing of God would accompany the offering, and Ireland would become characteristically Christian and Protestant.

November, 1867.

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