

THE IRISH CHURCH BILL OF 1833.

From the London Saturday Review.

It is impossible to follow the course of the present measure by which the Irish Church is to be swept away as a State Church and be bequeathed to the people by the State, without feeling an interest revived in the history of its predecessor six-and-thirty years ago.

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The bill was read for the third time and passed on May 13, 1833. It was a measure of great importance, and one which has since been regarded as a landmark in the history of the Church of Ireland.

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spiritual affairs, but it takes away a vast amount of ecclesiastical property and applies it to secular purposes—purposes that have, indeed, a sort of tinge or halo of religiousness about them.

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appear quite unanswerable. The Bishops, he pointed out, had an unlimited power of leasing, until their powers were restrained by the State, to the limit of twenty-one years, and the restraint, as stated in the preamble of the act creating it, was expressly devised in the interest of the Church.

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demonstration against the bill. On the 20th, he was followed by Lord Eldon, who said that, if the bill passed, the House of Lords would not last twenty years; and he reached the loftiest light of Eddonian hubbub—the com- pletest type of hubbub perhaps ever attained in England—by declaring that "the arch- bishops, bishops, and clergy might undergo much persecution, but he hoped that they would allow him—if they would allow a layman to go along with them—to take a full share of the evils of the Church."

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