

Hogan, M. P.

A Novel

May Laffan Hartley

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“Whatever may be thought of the purity of the Irish Parliament during the brief period in which it exercised an independent authority, there are certainly few things more absurd than the charges of bigotry that are frequently directed against it.

“It is worthy, too, of notice that the liberalism of the Irish Parliament was always in direct proportion to its political independence. . . .

“The purely national and secular spirit the Irish Parliament had fostered perished with its organ. Patriotism was replaced by sectarianism....

“It is obvious, in the first place, that one important effect of a purely secular political feeling will be to weaken the intensity of sectarianism. Before its existence sectarianism was the measure by which all things and persons were contemplated. But when a purely political spirit is engendered, a new enthusiasm is introduced into the mind, which first divides the affections and at last replaces the passion that had formerly been supreme.”

—*Lecky*, “History of Rationalism.”