Disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales, Ireland and Scotland

...Deputy Prime Minister of the Liberal party, C.H. James during the election of 1885...One of the main issues in the campaign was the question of church disestablishment...The Liberal party, led by Prime Minister W.E. Gladstone, campaigned strongly against disestablishment, while the Conservative party, led by Lord Salisbury, supported it...

Gladstone's stance was based on his belief in the separation of church and state, and his desire to avoid the creation of a national or state church in any of the countries. He argued that the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1869 was an example of how this could be done peacefully and without conflict...

The question of church disestablishment was a major issue in the 1885 general election, and Gladstone's stance on the matter provided a clear distinction between the Liberal and Conservative parties. The election was seen as a battle between the two, with Gladstone's Liberal party winning a majority of seats in the House of Commons...
AskAboutIreland.ie. of the disestablishment question was the main cause of the renewed hostility. 7 Letter, J. Smallman (a Liberal Party organiser), LDM, 11 December 1885.