

By those awful Tests we have bound ourselves in the presence of the all-seeing Deity, whom all classes of Christians adore, "To be faithful, and bear true allegiance to our most gracious Sovereign Lord King George the Third, and him to defend to the utmost of our power against all conspiracies and attempts whatsoever against his Person, Crown or Dignity; to use our utmost endeavours to disclose and make known to his Majesty, and his Heirs, all Treasons and Traitorous Conspiracies, which may be formed against him or them, and faithfully to maintain, support and defend, to the utmost of our power, the Succession to the Crown in his Majesty's Family, against all persons whomsoever; that by those Oaths we have renounced and abjured obedience and allegiance unto any other Person claiming or pretending a right to the Crown of this Realm: that we have rejected, as unchristian and impious to believe, the detestable doctrine, that it is lawful, in any way, to injure any person or persons whomsoever, under pretence of their being Heretics; and also that unchristian and impious principle, that no faith is to be kept with Heretics; that it is no article of our Faith, and we renounce, reject and abjure the opinion, that Princes excommunicated by the Pope and Council, or by any authority whatsoever, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects, or by any person whatsoever; that we do not believe, that the Pope of Rome, or any other foreign Prince, Prelate, State or Potentate, hath, or ought to have, any temporal or civil jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, within this Realm; that we irrevocably believe, that no Act, in itself unjust, immoral, or wicked, can ever be justified or excused by, or under pretence, or colour, that it was done for the good of the Church, or in obedience to any Ecclesiastical Power whatsoever; and that it is not an article of the Catholic Faith, neither are we thereby required to believe or profess, that the Pope is infallible, or that we are bound to any Order, in its own nature immoral, though the Pope, or any Ecclesiastical Power, should issue or direct such Order; but that, on the contrary, we hold, that it would be sinful in us to pay any respect or obedience thereto; that we do not believe, that any sin whatsoever, committed by us, can be forgiven at the mere will of any Pope, or of any Priest, or of any person or persons whatsoever; but that any person who receives absolution, without a sincere sorrow for such sin, and a firm and sincere resolution to avoid future guilt, and to atone to God, so far from obtaining thereby any remission of his sin, incurs the additional guilt of violating a sacrament. And, by the same solemn obligations, we are bound and firmly pledged to defend, to the utmost of our power, the settlement and arrangement of property in Ireland, as established by the Laws now in being. That we have declared, disavowed, and solemnly abjured, any intention to subvert the present Church Establishment, for the purpose of substituting a Catholic Establishment in its stead.

And we have solemnly sworn that we will not exercise any privilege, to which we are or may become entitled, to disturb or weaken the Protestant Religion or Protestant Government in Ireland."

We can with perfect truth assure this Honourable House, that the political and moral principles, asserted by these solemn and special Tests, are not merely in union with our fixed principles, but expressly inculcated by the Religion which we profess.

And we do most humbly trust, that, as professors of Doctrines, which permit such Tests to be taken, we shall appear to this Honourable House to be entitled to the full enjoyment of religious freedom, under the happy Constitution of these Realms.

Frequently has the Legislature of Ireland borne testimony to the uniform peaceable demeanour of the Irish Roman Catholics, to their acknowledged merits as good and loyal Subjects, to the wisdom and sound policy of admitting them to all the blessings of a free Constitution, and of thus binding together all classes of the People by mutual interest and mutual affection.

Yet may we humbly represent to this Honourable House, with sincere regret and deep study, that the Roman Catholics of Ireland still remain subject to severe and humiliating Laws, rigidly enforced, universally felt, and indelibly upon them divers ignominious and vexatious disabilities, incapacitating, privations and penalties—by reason of their conscientious adherence to the religious doctrines of their forefathers.

For more than twenty years, the progress of religious freedom has been obstructed; and, whilst other Christian Nations have hastened to unbind the fetters imposed upon religious dissent, the Roman Catholics of Ireland have remained unrelieved.

These Penal Laws operate for no useful or meritorious purpose. Affording no aid to the Constitution in Church or State—not attaching attention to either—they are efficient only for objects of disunion and disaffection.

They separate the Protestant from the Catholic, and withdraw both from the public good; they irritate man against his fellow-creature, alienate the Subject from the State, and leave the Roman Catholic community but a precarious and unprotected as the reward of fixed and unobscured allegiance.

We forbear to detail the numerous incapacities and incongruities inflicted by these Laws, di-

rectly or indirectly, upon the Catholic community—or to dwell upon the humiliating and ignominious system of exclusion, reproach and suspicion, which they generate and keep alive. Perhaps no Age or Nation has ever witnessed severities more vexatious, or inflictions more taunting, than those which we have long endured, and of which but too large a portion still remains.

Relief from these disabilities and penalties we have sought through every channel that has appeared to us to be legitimate and eligible. We have never consciously violated, or sought to violate, the known Laws of the Land: nor have we pursued our object in any other manner than such as has been usually adhered to, and apparently the best calculated to collect and communicate our united sentiments accurately, without tumult, and to obviate all pretext for asserting, that the Roman Catholic community at large were indifferent to the pursuit of their freedom.

We can affirm, with perfect sincerity, that we have no latent views to realize—no secret or sinister objects to attain. Any such imputation must be effectually repelled, we humbly conceive, by the consideration of our numbers, our property, our known principles, and character.

Our object is avowed and direct—earnest, yet natural; it extends to a participation of the Civil Rights of the Constitution of our Country equally with our Fellow-Subjects of all other Religious Persuasions: it extends no further.

We would cheerfully concede the enjoyment of Civil and Religious Liberty to all mankind; we ask no more for ourselves.

We seek not the possession of Offices, but mere eligibility to Office, in common with our Fellow-Citizens—not power or ascendancy over any class of people, but the bare permission to rise from our prostrate posture, and to stand erect in the Empire.

In thus addressing the Legislature, we are naturally desirous to conciliate all opinions, and to obviate all objections; and we entertain a conscientious conviction, that all impartial opinions may be conciliated, and all rational objections to our Emancipation defeated, by the measure of Domestic Nomination of our Bishops—a measure in which our Prelates have declared their readiness to concur, and which, if introduced by the proper authority in our Church, would meet with the most cordial approbation of the Catholic People of Ireland.

If, in thus humbly submitting our depressed condition, and our earnest hopes, to the consideration of this Honourable House, we would dwell upon the great numbers and the property of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, already so considerable, and so rapidly increasing, and to their consequent most important contributions to the exigencies of the State—we would do so, not with a view of exciting unworthy motives for concession, but in the honest hope of suggesting legitimate and rational grounds of constitutional relief.

May we, then, with devoutly interested interest, appeal to the wisdom and benignity of this Honourable House on behalf of a very numerous, industrious, affectionate, and faithful body of people, the Roman Catholics of Ireland; and to pray, that this Honourable House may be pleased to take into their favourable consideration the whole of our condition—our numbers, our services, our merits, and our sufferings.

And, as we are conscious of the purity of our motives and the integrity of our principles, we therefore humbly pray to be restored to the full and unqualified enjoyment of the rights and privileges of the Constitution of our Country—to be freed from all penal and disabling Laws in force against us, on account of our Religious Faith; and that we may thereby become more worthy, as well as more capable, of promoting the substantial interest of this great Empire.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

SOCIETY OF SCHOOLMASTERS.

The Anniversary Dinner of this Charitable Institution was held on the 20th at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex in the Chair.

After the cloth was removed, *Non nobis Domine* was sung, and the usual toasts given, viz.—"The King"—"The Prince Regent"—"The Queen, the Princess Charlotte, and the female Branches of the Royal Family"—"The Duke of York and the Army"—"The Duke of Clarence and the Navy," were drunk, and appropriate songs were sung by some musical gentlemen.

Dr. Burney then proposed the health of the Duke of Cambridge, the Patron of the Society, whose high rank the assembly would look up to with respect, while they regarded his acts of kindness to them with gratitude. The meeting drank the health of His Royal Highness with applause, and three times three.

Dr. Lindsay then rose and said, he should propose a toast which would go home to the bosoms of all the Members of the Society. If there was a man who with earnestness and skill promoted the cause of knowledge, religion, and humanity, it was the Duke of Kent. (Applause.)

A Gentleman in Arlington, Virginia, has received a letter from his friend in Natchez, Miss., dated the 17th ult. giving the important intelligence, that a draft was then making of a body of Militia, to go against the Spaniards.

We received this morning the Paris Papers of Tuesday and Wednesday last. What there is in them of any importance was anticipated in our Paris Correspondent's Letter yesterday, which added besides some important and authentic intelligence that is not to be found in any of them.

No intelligence has been received this morning at Bow-street, respecting young Watson. Vandyke and Layard, who continue their searches on the coast. Added it will be advisable not to relax the efforts which were making for the apprehension of this young man; for from London, there is no doubt, when the fever of pursuit is over, that he will get to America.

We are happy to state, that Mr. Platt is recovering rapidly from the effect of his wound. It

has been determined not to put for the ball, the hall retains its spherical form, it may work of some other part of the body without affecting the health of the patient.

Two more Cabinet Councils have been held at the Foreign Office; one on Thursday at two o'clock, which sat till near six; and another assembled yesterday at two, at the same place, which sat till past five.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.—Notice is hereby given to all Captains of Ships, &c. that instead of the coal-fire which has hitherto been kept on the deck of the ship, a light with English lamps is erected 15 feet above the surface of the sea; the lighting of these lamps will begin at the end of December instant, or in January next.

S. U. FRANCES, Superintendent, Ayrick, Dec. 8, 1816.

DOVER, Dec. 20.—Came in the Defiance passage-vessel from Calais. By this arrival we are sorry to learn the loss of the *Empire*, of Great Yarmouth, with crew; she went ashore to the northward of Calais in the dreadful storm of wind and snow last night, and, unluckily to relate, all hands perished.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23.

Stocks this day at One.

Yesterday we received the Paris Papers and private letters of Thursday last. On Wednesday, the Chamber of Deputies took into consideration the Project of the Law for enabling Government to collect the four-twelfths of the land and personal contributions. Two amendments were proposed; one, that the tax on patents should be levied according to the lists of 1815; a second, that it should be levied according to a second list of 1816, deducting the 108 centimes added to it. The first amendment was withdrawn, the second rejected, and the Project of the Law was adopted by 164 to 30.

The King is recovered from his fit of the gout, and Every thing (says a Paris Paper) induces hope that he will be able to receive the homage of the Public Authorities on New Year's Day. The attack was not very violent; the King never ceased to get up as usual—to dine with the Royal Family—to give the order at nine o'clock—and to receive his Ministers.

There is no other news of importance in these Papers. The Funds are 55f. 70c.

Our Private Letter informs us, that the Commission to which the Law Project upon Individual Liberty was referred has terminated its labours, and agreed by a majority of 7 to 2 to report in favour of the Law.

A Morning Paper says, "A letter, addressed by Talleyrand to Lord Castlereagh, is now a very general subject of conversation in the higher circles. I have not been able to get a copy, but I can give you the substance of it. The Ex-Bishop says in his letter, that he was very indignant at seeing, in a private letter from Paris, inserted in *The Courier*, a conversation which took place at the English Ambassadors table, between him (Talleyrand) and M. Pasquier and others, Members of the French Government, then present. That he is charged with speaking disrespectfully of the present Ministry, and with saying that he considered the late Treaty as a disgrace to France. Talleyrand appeals to his Lordship, whether it were possible that he (Talleyrand) could be guilty of such a violation of *biensance*, and of the laws of hospitality, as to speak in disrespectful terms of the Treaty?"

It pains us to learn, by letters recently received from our ships of war in the West Indies, that a fever has prevailed on board some of them, peculiarly fatal in its nature to those attacked by it. Among other vessels, the *Beaumarais*, it is said, has lost six officers, including the surgeon, four midshipmen, and two clerks. The *Children*, in the short period of a month, has been deprived of several officers by the same unfortunate cause; besides five pursers successively appointed to her, and upwards of 30 men.

Some female, it is said, who has a more than feminine aversion to ugliness, sent a few days ago a letter to Mr. Keen, threatening to shoot him, if he should persist in "grinning like a monkey" in the character of *Sr. Edward Mortimer*. Mr. Keen, however, had too much courage to abandon his theatrical privilege of looking as horrible as he pleases, and accordingly on Saturday night grinned as ferociously as he was in duty bound to grin. He was not shot; and indeed it had not happened, Mr. Keen, it appears, was at hand to seize the monstrous offender.

Extract of a letter from Liverpool, Dec. 17.—"The cargo of the ship *Harlequin*, consisting of flour, was this day sold at auction. The sale commenced at 78s. per barrel, went down to 73s. 9d. and closed at 75s. per barrel. The *Harlequin* left New York on the 24th ult. when flour, which had advanced to 13 a 14 dollars, was again selling at 11 1/2 a 12 dollars per barrel, and a good deal may be expected."

The Lords of the Admiralty have been pleased to make an alteration and increase in the pay of the Officers of the Navy, when employed. The long-accustomed compensation for servants has been taken away, and the following full pay established. Captains of first rates, £800; 2d ditto, £700; 3d ditto, £600; 4th ditto, £500; 5th ditto, £400; 6th ditto, £300; 7th ditto, £200; 8th ditto, £100; 9th ditto, £50; 10th ditto, £25; 11th ditto, £12 1/2; 12th ditto, £6 1/4; 13th ditto, £3 1/8; 14th ditto, £1 1/4; 15th ditto, £7/8; 16th ditto, £5/8; 17th ditto, £3/8; 18th ditto, £1/8; 19th ditto, £1/16; 20th ditto, £1/32; 21st ditto, £1/64; 22nd ditto, £1/128; 23rd ditto, £1/256; 24th ditto, £1/512; 25th ditto, £1/1024; 26th ditto, £1/2048; 27th ditto, £1/4096; 28th ditto, £1/8192; 29th ditto, £1/16384; 30th ditto, £1/32768; 31st ditto, £1/65536; 32nd ditto, £1/131072; 33rd ditto, £1/262144; 34th ditto, £1/524288; 35th ditto, £1/1048576; 36th ditto, £1/2097152; 37th ditto, £1/4194304; 38th ditto, £1/8388608; 39th ditto, £1/16777216; 40th ditto, £1/33554432; 41st ditto, £1/67108864; 42nd ditto, £1/134217728; 43rd ditto, £1/268435456; 44th ditto, £1/536870912; 45th ditto, £1/1073741824; 46th ditto, £1/2147483648; 47th ditto, £1/4294967296; 48th ditto, £1/8589934592; 49th ditto, £1/17179869184; 50th ditto, £1/34359738368; 51st ditto, £1/68719476736; 52nd ditto, £1/137438953472; 53rd ditto, £1/274877906944; 54th ditto, £1/549755813888; 55th ditto, £1/1099511627776; 56th ditto, £1/2199023255552; 57th ditto, £1/4398046511104; 58th ditto, £1/8796093022208; 59th ditto, £1/17592186044416; 60th ditto, £1/35184372088832; 61st ditto, £1/70368744177664; 62nd ditto, £1/140737488355328; 63rd ditto, £1/281474976710656; 64th ditto, £1/562949953421312; 65th ditto, £1/1125899906842624; 66th ditto, £1/2251799813685248; 67th ditto, £1/4503599627370496; 68th ditto, £1/9007199254740992; 69th ditto, £1/18014398509481984; 70th ditto, £1/36028797018963968; 71st ditto, £1/72057594037927936; 72nd ditto, £1/144115188075855872; 73rd ditto, £1/288230376151711744; 74th ditto, £1/576460752303423488; 75th ditto, £1/1152921504606846976; 76th ditto, £1/2305843009213693952; 77th ditto, £1/4611686018427387904; 78th ditto, £1/9223372036854775808; 79th ditto, £1/18446744073709551616; 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