

— A DEFENCE —

OF

CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES.

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DEAR SIR,

After your unprovoked attack upon the whole body of Roman Catholics, it was expected that an apology for the same would have been considered by you as due to them. To exhibit above one hundred millions of Catholics, as standing on a level with heathens; to represent the whole of them as a superstitious set, wandering in the paths of darkness; and finally, to exclude the Catholics of the United States from their rank of citizens, cannot be considered by you as a *trifling* insult. Now, Sir, as a gentleman, you cannot be ignorant of the common principles of civility; as a Christian, and especially as a teacher of the Christian religion, you cannot be ignorant of that great precept of Christian charity, which our blessed Saviour declares to be the very soul of religion, on which dependeth "the whole law and the prophets," (Matt. xxii. 40.) Wishing to act under the influence of those principles, I shall, according to the directions of your and my Saviour, (Matt. v. 44.) return you good for evil, and pray God to bless you whilst you are persecuting and calumniating us. However, as you refuse us (what we think we are justly entitled to) an apology, I shall step forward in the name of my Catholic brethren, and give you and the public an explanation of our principles, which will convince you, I trust, that we are not guilty of superstition.

If, instead of accusing us in a general manner, you had been pleased to state distinctly in what particular