

"I, A.B., do solemnly, and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare, that I do believe that in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any Transubstantiation of the Elements of Bread and Wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at or after the Consecration thereof by any Person whatsoever; and that the Invocation or Adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saints and the Sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous. And I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare that I do make this Declaration, and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the Words read unto me, as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any Evasion, Equivocation, or Mental Reservation whatsoever, and without any dispensation already granted me for this purpose by the Pope, or any other Authority or Person or Authority whatsoever, or without thinking that I am or can be acquitted before God or Man, or absolved of this Declaration, or any part thereof, although the Pope, or any other person or persons, or power whatsoever, should dispense with or annul the sin, or declare that it was null and void from the beginning."

So matters stood until the revolution of 1688, by which the principle of hereditary succession to the Crown of Great Britain was repudiated, and the supremacy of Parliament asserted by the calling of William Prince of Orange, to the throne. Still a danger menaced the new order of things. James II., the exiled king, had a son whose right to the crown was quite as unimpeachable as that of his two sisters, Mary and Anne. But he was a Catholic. To shut him out forever from his rights, and at the same time to debar any Catholic from reaching the throne, the Declaration against Transubstantiation was made obligatory, in its most insulting form, on the sovereign, by the following piece of legislation, enacted in the year 1689:

"An Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and Settling the Succession of the Crown."

"And that every King or Queen of this Realm who at any time hereafter shall come to and succeed in the Imperial Crown of this Kingdom, shall on the first day of the meeting of the first Parliament next after his or her coming to the Crown, sitting in his or her throne in the House of Peers, in the presence of the Lords and Commons therein assembled, or at his or her coronation, before such person or persons as shall administer the Coronation Oath to him or her at the time of his or her taking the said oath shall make, subscribe and audibly repeat the Declaration mentioned in the statute made in the 30th year of the reign of King Charles the Second, intituled:—