

conduct in this case, and I owe it to myself as a public writer to prove the accuracy of my statements, and to demonstrate the indubitable sources from which I have, in my late letters to the Earl of Carlisle, derived my political information.

I shall divide this letter into seven heads; and I beg to assure you that in the treatment of the subject I mean no personal offence either to your Lordship or Lord John Russell. I am solely actuated by the desire of doing public justice to injured truth, placing the subject before the impartial judgment of an honest British public, and warning them in future (an advice scarcely necessary) against giving implicit credence to any assertion of yours involving any statement where the Catholic Church, Catholic faith, Catholic practices, or the political laws of Catholic states, are the subjects under your official examination.

Firstly, then, every one who has read the furious articles of the daily London press, must have been struck this some time past with the painful description given of "the appalling prison in which the Madias were confined; the damp floors on which they lived, the unendurable penal dress in which they were clothed, the cruel treatment they received, the barbarous tyranny of excluding all intercourse with their friends, and the murderous results of this Papal persecution, which must very soon end in the death of these most unoffending, most resigned victims of Popish intolerance." Even Lord John Russell, writing on the subject to Sir Henry Bulwer, the pink of toleration and truth, has said, "It is the same thing in effect," said his Lordship, "to condemn a man to die by fire like Savonarola, or to put him to death by the slow tortures of an unhealthy prison."

Here is the Foreign Secretary himself joining in the cry of the furious bigots, charging the Duke of Tuscany with the indirect murder of the Madias, and, as will presently appear, clearly *pre-judging* the case. This point will, I fancy, be sufficiently proved by the following letter of Mr. Erskine, in reply to Lord John Russell, and received by him on the 4th of the present month:—

"I am informed by Mr. Chapman," writes Mr. Erskine, "an English gen-