

cause, but a bad one, could be served by it. It cannot shelter itself even under the Jesuitical plea of doing evil that good may come. In fine, there is the strongest possible presumption, in this case, of the truth of those testimonies which go to prove that these witnesses were either bribed or otherwise unduly influenced. This presumption is not diminished by the fact, also attested, that they were forbid to have any communication with me or my friends, and above all, strictly enjoined not to subscribe any paper that might be submitted to them on our part.

The evidence, thus obtained, is of such a frail nature, that it could not endure, they were conscious, the slightest inspection. I challenged them contemptuously to allow me to touch it with my little finger (*minimo digitulo*.) To the challenge they remained, I grieve to say, both deaf and dumb.

Their evidence, clandestinely got, was kept in the dark and withheld from me, until a long and formal Ecclesiastical Inquisition (and who shall deny that this is its appropriate appellation?) had produced popular excitement and suspicion, and *fama clamosa* had opened the minds of the congregation to a due susceptibility of the impressions intended; then, at last, did they, *late and loth*, put into my hands their charges. One brief audience\* was given to me, and had they known beforehand the lecture I was to read them, and the exposé of their conduct which I then and there made, some pretext, I doubt not, would have been devised to shut me out *from even that one brief audience*†; but if the door had been thus inadvertently and unluckily opened, they made all haste to repair their error, by shutting it forthwith against me and for ever; and the sentence, originally passed upon me, having been renewed and confirmed, was next attempted, how strenuously and perseveringly, will appear by and by, to be carried into instant execution. Their plot was bold and original, and the means so admirably concerted and accommodated to the end proposed, that it is utterly vain and useless for my accusers to persist any longer in their dissimulation; the mask, which they wore, has dropped from their visage: the veil, thin and transparent as it was, they have torn from their brow with their own hands, and they stand forth to the view of all the world, with their motives no less than their actions exposed in all their naked deformity.

The first declaration on which I shall comment is that of Mr. Rae, whose evidence has been got up in such a form as to give it an appearance of the greatest possible strength, or, to express it more properly, to set it off to the greatest possible advantage.—In a moon-light night, in the end of June or beginning of July, (and in the year, let it be remembered, 1829,) this witness meets me, or sees me approach him; and that we may be duly prepared for the scene which ensues, he states that he had heard it reported that I was in the habit of going to, or frequenting, places of ill fame; he

\* See No. 29, 30.

† See my Statement to Dr. Lee.