

## ROMAN CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION ACT 1829.

The Act emancipating the Roman Catholics of Ireland was delayed owing to the opposition of George III; and when at last it was passed in 1829, it was only after an organised agitation, which left behind it triumph to the leaders of the popular party, who at once sought new fields for their energies, and the Church received their immediate attention.

## TITHE WAR AND ACT 1832.

The tithe war was the first result of this; and in 1832 an Act, making composition for tithe permanent and compulsory, was passed.

## CHURCH TEMPORALITIES ACTS 1833-34.

In the same year a Royal Commission was issued to inquire into the revenues and state of the Church; and in 1833 a statute, called "The Church Temporalities Act," was passed, which was amended and supplemented by another in the next year. By these statutes assessments for building and maintaining churches, which had hitherto been paid by Roman Catholics and Protestant Dissenters were abolished, and the cost was laid on the property of the Church. The archbishoprics and bishoprics were reduced to twelve from twenty-two, and the revenues of the ten suppressed bishoprics were appropriated to the purpose. The remaining Sees were united and consolidated, and a Board of Commissioners was appointed to administer the fund thus created. All benefices and dignities above £300 a year were taxed to augment the fund, and a power was also given to the Privy Council to suspend the emoluments of sinecures. The interests of persons holding under terminable leases from the bishops and dignitaries were made permanent, and thus renewal fines were abolished for the benefit of the tenants. Bishops and clergy were thus the first landlords in Ireland who felt the pain of a partial confiscation. I think the framers of modern Irish land legislation found here a precedent, for by this arrangement the tenant was enabled to convert this tenure into a perpetuity, subject to a fee-