

cal impostures and processions, to maintain them on their thrones. In Italy, France, and Spain—in every country where there are despots, the religion of Rome is called on to support tyranny. In Piedmont before its government became constitutional, and when it was under the direction of the Jesuits, the government used to have religious processions in order to divert the people from the thought of renewing their ancient republic. And now, what is the means by which Louis Napoleon deceives France? He is an infidel, without any kind of religion in his heart, but he affects to be a bigot and a Jesuit in order to gain empire. This is the time for devotion in France. Processions everywhere—miracles everywhere. The clergy glorious, proud, and exalting themselves. Oh, discover what is concealed under the pharisaical cloak, and you will see the future tyranny—the future slavery of France. And you, Irish Catholics—shame! You defend those Catholic processions—you were rioting for them. You think you cannot be true Christians without them. I have much respect for your hearts and minds, but your priests have graduated you to such a degree of blindness, that you believe those processions to form a dogmatical part of Christian worship.* No; you can be Christians without them (applause)—you can be saved without them—you can be true sheep of Christ without them. Your priests gain in money and authority by them, because after processions you are guilty of immorality, and are obliged to go and confess; and it is by the confessional that the priest derives his greatest power over you and your family. I conclude by blessing God that in the proclamation of Queen Victoria against processions, I find another proof that England is the land of freedom, of Christian faith (applause). Your Queen has given a testimony to all Europe that Protestants firmly believe that without processions a people can be Christian; and the English government have made a public confession that there is no need of processions to support the crown and the law, because in this Christian and constitutional country faith in God, faith in the Queen, faith in parliament, and the love of the nation, and freedom itself are sufficient without them. (Applause.)