

are Catholics accused by the sovereign. Lord Macaulay, speaking of Brahmanism, says :

"As this superstition is of all superstitions the most irrational, and of all superstitions the most inelegant, so it is of all superstitions the most immoral."

Now, Brahmans exist in millions in India. Not only is their superstition not so stigmatized by the sovereign, or the sovereign's representatives, but the most scrupulous care is taken lest the Brahmanistic conscience should be in the least offended. No such regard is had for the beliefs of the oldest and most numerous body of Christians in the world.

And what are those Catholic doctrines which are especially pilloried by the Declaration? They are fundamental and characteristic articles of the Catholic creed. The Real Presence of Our Saviour in the Blessed Eucharist, the Catholic teaching regarding the Blessed Virgin and the Invocation of the Saints, and the Sacrifice of the Mass, are declared to be superstitious and idolatrous. I pass over with the mere mention the absurdity and the cruelty of anyone fixing such a shameful stigma on any religion, unless he or she have made the doctrines condemned the subject of careful study, and have become assured that foul play and misrepresentation and calumny have had no part in the condemnation. I pass over also the reasons of state which should preclude the very possibility of a great diplomatic personage, such as is the British sovereign, from giving needless, wanton and studied offence to the Catholic rulers and people of the world. I leave out a consideration the truth or falsity of the dogmas condemned. What matters it that we claim a basis in Scripture and in reason for our belief in Transubstantiation? Of what import is it that we pride ourselves on the eminent reasonableness of our veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints? What concern is it that the Sacrifice of the Mass is the centre and the soul of Catholic worship? These things were superstitious and idolatrous, in the prejudiced judgment of the English Parliament of the days of William and Mary; superstitious and idolatrous they must remain for Queen Victoria and her successors. And yet some of the choicest and subtlest intellects that the world has ever known, have accepted these beliefs and were prepared to sacrifice every-