

Oh, no! We have no fear that Legislative interference will abridge or alter the right of religious observance; such an assumption would bring us back to the Penal Days of Ireland; and, surely, there can be no apprehension that our Bishops and Priests will compromise that consistency, which is the distinguishing feature of Catholicism, by abandoning the service of our Maker because it may be distasteful to the sensitiveness of Men. Protestant or Sectarian prejudice may be conciliated, in degree, in mundane matters; but there can be no surrender of fealty where God's worship is involved. On this subject the Voice of the Church is the only voice to be regarded with authority, and no external promptings are needed where a Divine impulse is from within. No, a thousand times no! The *Fete Dieu* will not be abandoned even in deference to Protestant—rather to Orange—objection. Suggestions to this end may be charitably conceived; but the sacrifice would be too great for even Authority to decree, and the interference is more than unwarranted when Outsiders presume to dictate.

We have already overstepped our assigned space. We had intended to refer to Patriotic and National demonstrations in this connection, this month; but the subject will keep. One observation on the general question of the 12th July procession may not be out of place or untimely. The Orange leaders declare willingness, on the part of their followers, to proceed, unarmed, to Church if they are accorded by Municipal Authority an armed escort! Very magnanimous. But Municipal Authority should remember, beforehand, that Montreal Catholics will be called upon to pay the cost of the guard of honor for the demonstrative insulters of their Creed. That is all!

What are the actions which afford in the remembrance a rational satisfaction? Are they the pursuits of sensual pleasure, the riots of jolity, or the displays of show and vanity? No: I appeal to your hearts, my friends, if what you recollect with most pleasure, are not the innocent, the virtuous, the honorable parts of your past life.

## HARP AND SWORD OF ERIN.

The following beautiful song, composed by M. S. Blacklock, the gifted author of "Rosa Muldoon," "Lily of Kerry," &c., and dedicated to the Clanna-Gael Association, entitled the "Harp and Sword of Erin," at least equals if it does not surpass his former efforts.

## I.

In Erin's wide halls when festivity reigns,  
Grief mingles with joy in her harp's gentle strains,  
But loud and majestic their swell when each chord  
Triumphantly throbs to the crash of the sword!  
Her harp hath no rival—no foe can withstand  
The glittering blade in her conquering hand!  
Chorus—For mighty's the sword of brave Erin,  
And sweet is the harp of old Erin;  
The harp and the sword,  
The harp and the sword,  
The keen sword and sweet harp of Erin.

## II.

Thou soul-stirring harp, it is thine through the years  
To move Erin's children to rapture or tears;  
Yet should war's rude summons awaken thine ire,  
Her heroes arise like a tempest of fire!  
With blood-reeking sabres and loose flowing rein,  
They ride as their battle-peal rings o'er the plain!  
Chorus—For mighty's the sword of brave Erin,  
And sweet is the harp of old Erin;  
The harp and the sword,  
The harp and the sword,  
The keen sword and sweet harp of Erin.

## III.

Dear Erin, thou yet shalt in grandeur repose,  
The pride of thy people, the dread of thy foes!  
And eyes that have wept by each time-honored tower,  
Behold thee restored to peace, splendor and power!  
Yet cherish the heart and bright sabre that erst  
A glamour of glory around thy dark past!  
Chorus—For mighty's the sword of brave Erin,  
And sweet is the harp of old Erin;  
The harp and the sword,  
The harp and the sword,  
The keen sword and sweet harp of Erin.