

The Ribbonmen's oath is to cut off heresy, and establish the Roman Catholic religion in this kingdom.*

Here at one view we have, 1. The oath of popes, bishops, priests, ribbonmen, &c., with their creed and notes (p. 365—369) all in perfect unison to exterminate Protestants in every way possible; 2. The variety of punishments decreed for them; 3. The proof that no informed pope or priest believes the doctrines he is sworn to teach are true, or are other than so many impious inventions framed to uphold the papacy; 4. That the laity, not aware of this imposture, are ever at their clergy's beck to execute their will, let what will be the result to themselves or others!

A plain question for statesmen, Protestants, and lay Romanists, now arises: should a great army of pagans besiege a Christian city, and from the general to the private be known to be sworn, either to destroy these citizens or make them turn idolaters, ought they on any account open their gates to them? Who, not insane, will say they ought? If not, the application is easy. This whole clergy are bound together on oath to destroy all Protestants and make them papal idolaters, and they have the laity at their will; on what ground then should the gates be opened? should the power they clamour for be ceded to them? Yield it, and if they watch not for every opportunity to annihilate Protestants and their institutions, they must be constant perjurers: but if they keep their oaths, and use their energies, shall not anarchy, confusion, and blood fill the land? Either then let the priests quit their wicked oaths, or the people quit the priests, and the gates may then fly open at once: but not till then. See p. 368.

THE PAPAL CLERGY SELF-DESTROYED!

Every pope and priest grants that all doctrines opposed to Christ and his gospel are false and antichristian, and that the teachers of them are false prophets and antichrists, leading their followers to perdition: but he and his whole

* "The object and oath of the Ribbonmen are, as it is unquestionably proved, the subversion of the constitution, the separation of Ireland from Great Britain, the extirpation of all the Protestant inhabitants out of the country, and to establish the Roman Catholic religion in their stead." Mr. Plunket's speech, Nov. 1822. Chief Justice Bushe's speech at the Wicklow Assizes was in substance the same.

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