

REFORM OR RUIN:

TAKE YOUR CHOICE!

I AM a free-born Irishman, and an independent man. I am attached to my native land beyond any other spot on the earth. I am ready to sacrifice my life for its interests, and to spend the little property I have in securing its happiness. I therefore feel myself warranted to call upon all true Irishmen, to lend, at least, a patient attention to what I have to propose to them. I think for myself, and write as I think; I wish them to read and to judge for themselves.

It is agreed on all hands that our affairs are in a most desperate state; our difficulties and distresses multiply from day to day. War has been long afflicting us from abroad; heart-burnings, and discontents, and insurrections, from within. Numbers of our countrymen have perished by sea and land. The sword has cut off its hundreds, and disease its thousands; millions, and millions of money are daily expending; trade and manufactures languish; public credit was never more deeply shaken than we have lately seen it; Government securities were never at a lower ebb; our national debt encreases; and we begin to feel, what our patriots have often talked to us of, the pressure of taxes. Our very tars, among whom it was our pride to count so many Irishmen, suffered themselves to be deluded for a moment, and made our hearts ache. Some would even make us call in doubt the fidelity of our national troops, and labour to excite our fears, where we ought chiefly to place our reliance. Religious asperities, after a sleep of one hundred years, are once more awakened, and made instruments of ambition.