

held unfit, and incapable of holding the same\*.

All heretics or protestants were excommunicated by one general decree of Pope *Innocent* the Third.

We excommunicate and anathematize every heresy against the holy, orthodox, and catholic faith. Condemning all heretics under whatever names they may be distinguished, and who indeed, though they have different faces, have their tails all tied together, since they agree in vanity †.

Many other passages might be adduced to the same effect; besides innumerable quotations from Popish writers of great eminence, by whom the doctrine is asserted and defended. Nor has it been a mere speculative principle confined to books; history affords many well known examples of the deposition of royal heretics, which are celebrated with exultation by the Romish Church. Mr. *Burke* says, that “ in the great persecutions of *Nero*, “ and even of *Julian* the apostate, if no resist-

\* Sept: Decretal. Lib. V. Tit. 3. Cap. 9. Hac nostra in perpetuum valitura constitutione; de apostolica potestatis plenitudine sancimus: quod sententiis, censuris, et pœnis predictis in suis robore et efficacia remanentibus, omnes et singuli.---Comites, Barones, Marchiones, Duces, Reges, et Imperatores, qui hæcenus deviasse, aut in hæresim incidisse deprehensi fuerint, aut in posterum deviant, aut in hæresim incident, sint etiam eo ipso absque aliquo juris aut facti ministerio, Comitibus, Baronibus, Marchionatibus, Ducatibus, Regnis, et Imperio, penitus, et in totum, perpetuo privati, et ad illa de cætero inhabiles et incapaces habeantur.

† Decret. Greg. Lib. V. Tit. 7. Cap. 13. Excommunicamus itaque et anathematizamus omnem hæresim extollemem se adversus hanc sanctam, orthodoxam, et catholicam fidem, quam superius exposuimus.---Condemnantes hæreticos universos, quibuscunque nominibus censeantur, facies quidem diversas habentes, sed caudas ad invicem colligatas, quia de vanitate conveniunt in idipsum.

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