

FIFTH.—The duties of the Moderators shall be to preserve order in the assembly, and to keep the parties to the question.

† J. B. PURCELL.

A. CAMPBELL.

EXTRACT FROM THE DEBATE.

Mr. Campbell then opened the debate as follows :

My Christian Friends and Fellow Citizens,

I appear before you at this time by the good providence of our Heavenly Father in defence of the truth, and in explanation of the great redeeming, regenerating, and ennobling principles of Protestantism as opposed to the claims and pretensions of the Roman Catholic Church.

I come not here to advocate the particular tenets of any sect, but to defend the great cardinal principles of Protestantism.

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But as the gentlemen have decided that we proceed at once to the question, let us begin and examine the first proposition ; it is as follows :

1.—The Roman Catholic Institution, sometimes called the “ Holy Apostolic Catholic Church,” is not now, nor was she ever, catholic, apostolic, or holy ; but is a *sect*, in the fair import of that word, older than any other sect now existing—not the “ Mother and Mistress of all churches,” but an apostacy from the only true, holy, apostolic, and catholic church of Christ.

As this is the place and time for logic rather than rhetoric, I will proceed to define the meaning of the important terms contained in this proposition. The subject is the Roman Catholic Institution. This institution, notwithstanding its large and lofty pretensions, I affirm, can be proved clearly to be a *sect*, in the true and proper import of that term. Though she calls herself the Mother and Mistress of all Churches, she is, strictly speaking, a sect, and *no more than a sect*. We now propose to adduce proof to sustain this part of the proposition.

In the first place, the very term *Roman Catholic* indicates that she is a sect, and not the ancient, universal and apostolic church, the mother and mistress of all churches. If she be the only universal catholic church, why prefix the epithet *Roman* ? A Roman catholic church is a contradiction in terms. The word *Catholic* means universal ; the word *Roman* means something local and particular.

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It will not help the difficulty to call her the *Church of Rome*. The words indicate a sect, and only a sect, as much as the