

Your Majesty will hence perceive that the Priests do not only possess, but also exercise the power of inflicting the most oppressive and grievous punishments, which are visited on parties guilty of no fault, without trial, and without redress; and it has consequently happened that many worthy persons have found themselves compelled to yield to their will with nothing less than ruin to their worldly prospects; or starvation to their families, as the alternative. A power thus concentrated is brought to bear upon the people with so terrible an effect, that it cannot be matter of wonder that five-sixths of the Roman Catholic population are at the feet of their priests.

By this system of intimidation the Roman Catholic clergy have not only succeeded in procuring the return of persons to serve as members of the House of Assembly who are entirely subservient to their will, and subject to their control (to which we shall presently more particularly allude); but what is still more alarming, they have systematically interfered with the due administration of justice, in such a manner as materially to weaken its moral effect. Delinquents who were of their party have, when convicted; been taken under their especial protection, and held up to the world as persons oppressed and persecuted on account of their political opinions, and as martyrs in the cause of liberty, and the defence of their creed—by which means they have endeavoured to create in the minds of their deluded followers the most inveterate prejudices against those to whom the administration of Justice is intrusted. In this unholy attempt to establish in themselves an authority superior to the laws, they have omitted no oppor-