

of Saints, and the Sacrifice of the Mass, as practised in the Church of Rome (and which declaration is more fully set forth in the schedule to this Act annexed), is recognized to be taken, made and subscribed by the *subjects* of Her Majesty, for the enjoyment of certain civil offices, franchises, and rights :

"And whereas it is expedient to alter the law in that respect, and to abolish the said declaration :

"Be it enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty, &c., as follows :

"1. From and after the passing of this Act, all such parts of the said Acts as require the said declaration to be taken, made, or subscribed by any of Her Majesty's subjects as a qualification for the exercise or enjoyment of any civil office, franchise, or right, shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed, and it shall not be obligatory for any person hereafter to take, make, or subscribe the said declaration as a qualification for the exercise or enjoyment of any civil office, franchise, or right within the realm.

"2. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to enable any person professing the Roman Catholic religion to exercise or enjoy any civil office, franchise or right, for the exercise or enjoyment of which the taking, making, or subscribing the declaration, by this Act abolished, is now by law a necessary qualification, or any other civil office, franchise, or right from which he is now by law excluded."

Henceforth no British subject would be required to declare the doctrine of Transubstantiation, the Invocation of the Saints and of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Sacrifice of the Mass idolatrous and superstitious. But this highly objectionable oath must still be taken by the sovereign. Now, if it is offensive and unjust for Catholics to be termed idolatrous by the subjects of the Crown, and their own equals, the offensiveness and injustice are increased beyond endurance, when the charge is made by the sovereign and on the most solemn occasion. Every argument used in favor of the abolition of the oath for office-holders makes with ten-fold force against its being taken by the supreme head of the state. You may ask what it is to which Catholics find objection in this portion of the coronation proceedings. The question scarcely needs an answer. Idolatry is the paying of divine homage to false gods: superstition is a belief in which ignorant or abnormal religious feeling is shown. Both are crimes against God and against human reason; yet of both these crimes