

the nation, affect *his* humble lot? Will it give more freedom to the motion of his athletic limbs, or call forth the latent energies of his natural genius? Will catholic emancipation increase the crop he requires to eat, or decrease the rent he is required to pay? Will it recal his absent landlord from a sister isle or a foreign continent, and compel him to reside on his own estate, to exhibit himself there as an example and encourager of agricultural and moral improvement, to come into personal, and social, and sympathising contact with his tenants, and to spend his ample revenues among those from whom he receives them! We are by no means violently opposed to this same catholic emancipation. We feel no morbid dread of its consequences to the church, while we behold seated in parliament other enemies, more bigoted and rancorous than papists, *anxious* but *unable* to injure her. We consider it as altogether a political question with which it is neither our duty or inclination to interfere, although we would speak with humility, as we are aware that older and wiser heads have thought otherwise. But we are decidedly of opinion that the Irish peasant is not in the least degree interested in the result; and consequently that the measure has no tendency whatever to tranquilize that unhappy country, except indeed so far as, by removing one pretended cause of discontent, it would wrest from the hands of factious demagogues a weapon which they now so frequently and but too successfully wield against the peace of the Empire. Yet there is an emancipation which, we are sufficiently sanguine to believe, could it be effected, would produce the most beneficial and splendid results to the poorest and most obscure of that naturally gifted race; would call forth their fine intellectual energies; —an emancipation which would pour a flood of light through the windowless apertures of their wretched cabins, would teach them that they were men and not puppets, capable of worshipping with a *reasonable service*, Jehovah, *in spirit and in truth*, instead of bowing in ignorant and degrading abasement before the shrine of a priest-created idol. This emancipation consists in emancipating them from the thralldom of ignorance, the bondage of superstition, the yoke of priestly oppression.* It consists in convincing them that it is very possible to find a Church deriving her authority in uninterrupted succession from the Apostles, maintaining their form of Church-government, and at the same time holding their pure doctrines, and referring her votaries to the Sacred Scriptures; throwing open those pages written by the finger of God, for their investigation and satisfaction, as to the princi-

* We implore our readers of the Romish Church not to construe this into a general attack upon their Clergy, some of whom we hold in high and just esteem, and shall ever remember their society with pleasure and gratitude. The fraternal urbanity which we received not only in this country, but also in various parts of the Continent of Europe, made us predisposed to think well of those whom a subsequent increased acquaintance taught us to respect, for their exemplary personal and professional character.