

## IRELAND.

EXTRACTS FROM A CHARGE DELIVERED AT HIS TRIENNIAL AND METROPOLITAN VISITATION, IN ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN, ON, TUESDAY THE 10TH OF OCTOBER, 1826: BY WILLIAM MAGEE, D.D. F. R. S. M. R. I. A. &c. ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN.

### A CHARGE; &c. &c.

At this day, when, from causes which cannot be mistaken and are indeed no longer concealed, clamours have been raised and reiterated against our national Clergy; when false notions respecting the nature of our Establishment are industriously and dishonestly circulated; when not only its efficiency, but its legitimacy, has been denied, so that even the very principle which unites us with the State, has been brought in question; it may appear no inappropriate use of the present opportunity, to review the first principles of our Church Establishment, and to ascertain the grounds, on which, as a portion of the Church of Christ, of the true Catholic Church, we stand connected with the State; as well as the conditions which regulate, and the limits which define, that connexion. We shall thus be the better able to expose the fallacies, which fraud would impose on ignorance to our detriment; and to deprive fanaticism, cupidity, and irreligion, of those false colours, under which they wage their unhallowed warfare against the Established Religion of the country.

Indeed, independently of such considerations, it cannot but be at all times important, that the principles of a Union, whose consequences to the community must be vitally influential, should be thoroughly understood, and steadily kept in view, both by the Clergy and the Public. By the clear understanding of these principles, it is, that the one will be enabled to see and preserve their true position in the State, and the other will be taught to value and defend that order of men, whose binding principle is the cement of the social policy, and whose civil existence is essentially interwoven, even for temporal purposes, with the best interests of the Nation.

The ground of the Union, of which we speak, is, happily for these lands in which our Church is established, the same with that on which rests the stability of our civil fabric:—and it is that, by which alone, in every state and country, unity and permanency can be secured to the system of Government: namely, a *Sovereign Supremacy within the Realm*, not to be interfered with by any extrinsic power, nor to be resisted by any domestic impediment.

Nothing is more common with unreflecting minds, than to suppose a religious establishment, in its temporal character, as possessing an interest distinct from the state: a sort of incorporated craft, seeking its own ends, and working its own gains through the power of its temporal associate,