

*the Gospel*, but whether those, who acknowledge the Supremacy of a foreign Potentate, and hold, as a part of their creed, an imperative duty not to keep faith with heretics, (i. e. Protestants,) should be admitted to the same civil privileges already enjoyed by Socinians, sceptics, and freethinkers. As for the absurdities and superstitions of that church, we conceive they can never gain any important proselytes in the present enlightened age. The mists which the malaria of Rome has spread over a large portion of Christendom are gradually clearing away before the bright sunshine of Truth, which the general system of education is shedding forth in the most benighted corners of His Majesty's dominions; and personal experience in various parts of the world has convinced us that of the numerous adversaries by which our church is beset, Romanists are by no means the most rancorous or bigotted. We do not, therefore, feel any morbid dread of our glorious constitution in Church and State sustaining any injury from half a dozen, or half a score, Popish aristocrats being admitted into the British senate, and merely *qualified* to hold a few other offices of influence. But older and wiser heads have thought otherwise. It is a subject on which not only "much *may* be said on both sides;" but much *has* been said by advocates pro and con, whose solid judgment, and patriotic integrity it would be rank calumny to call in question. We rejoice, therefore, that it forms not any part of our duty to give a decisive opinion on the subject. But on *one* point we will venture to decide, viz. that many advocates for the measure have treated the opinions and petitions of the clergy of the establishment in a manner that does no credit to either their hearts or their heads; and indisputably such men as Mr. O'Connell, Shiel, Hume, Brougham, &c. are not calculated to render that measure popular with the British nation. Supposing the clergy to be actuated by no higher motive than a fear of diminution of their *secular emoluments*, even in this case their petitions are entitled to the same respect as that of any other body under similar circumstances; yet, have they received the respect which common decency demands? But our own personal knowledge of many petitioners induces us to believe that they are in general prompted by a higher and holier motive, viz. a cordial affection for that established and pure religion of which they know themselves to be the legitimate guardians, and which they consider to be seriously endangered.

We have read the speeches on both sides with considerable interest. Without doubt the Oxonians are proud of their representative, Mr. Peel; and we are not a little so of our representative, Sir John Copley. We regret, as the measure has been rejected, that the majority against it was not more triumphant, as we feel assured that it is high time the question should be *decidedly set at rest* either one way or the other; for as long as the question continues to be agitated, so long will a large mass of the Irish also continue in agitation.