

of inhabitants in *Ireland* did not then amount to a million; and the *Roman* catholics were four fifths of the whole. Dread of their numbers, and resentment for the cruelties they had inflicted upon the protestants while their rule lasted, dictated the plan, which was then adopted, and which has to this day been unremittingly pursued, for preventing the growth of popery in that island, and depriving its professors of all means of disturbing the government or abetting the enemies of the state. All papists, not included in the capitulation of *Limerick*, are by law rendered incapable of purchasing, inheriting, or even obtaining the security of a mortgage upon a landed estate: And to encourage the discovery and detection of offenders against these laws, as well as to promote reformation, the informers are rewarded with a grant of the lands, which, upon conviction of the owner, becomes forfeited to the crown. Besides the legal disabilities, which papists are subjected to

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