

unable to suppress their religious prejudices, and vote for justice to Roman Catholics. It was introduced in the House of Lords and received its second reading on July 6th. At that stage of the proceedings, however, it was announced that a commission was engaged on the general subject of oaths, and the bill was consequently withdrawn, pending the report of the commission. The decisions of the commission strongly favored the abolition of all these offensive oaths, declarations and tests, and on the 7th of February, 1867, Sir Colman O'Loughlin reintroduced his bill, but now, instead of applying to office-holders in Ireland alone, it was made to include all the subjects of Her Majesty. Little opposition was offered, and the measure received its third reading on the 14th of May. Lord Kimberly, who had once been Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, undertook to pilot it through the Upper Chamber. In his speech he characterized the Declaration as "offensive and unnecessary."

"He had himself," he said, "been called to make that declaration before the Irish Privy Council, in the presence of a large number of persons of the Roman Catholic faith; and he must say that he had never in his life made a declaration with more pain than when he was required, before men holding high office, and for whom he had the greatest respect, to declare the tenets of their religion to be superstitious and idolatrous."

During the debate in the House of Lords two interesting statements were made, in view of our present discussion. Lord Derby remarked that

"The oath which the bill abolishes is *totidem verbis* the same as the one required to be taken by the sovereign at his or her coronation; and consequently the bill does open up a much larger question than at first sight it would appear to do."

And the Marquis of Bath thought that

"The bill would place the sovereign in an isolated and anomalous position, and it would behoove Parliament at some future time to consider whether the sovereign should not also be relieved from the necessity of this declaration."

The bill passed the House of Lords and received the Royal assent on July the 25th, 1867. Sir Colman O'Loughlin's bill was couched in the following terms :

"Whereas by various Acts a certain declaration, commonly called the Declaration against Transubstantiation and the Invocation