

"The LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION is formed by persons desirous of supporting, to the utmost of their power, the principles and practice of the CHRISTIAN RELIGION, to maintain the Laws and Constitution of the Country, afford assistance to the distressed members of the Order, and otherwise to promote such laudable and benevolent purposes as may tend to the due ordering of Religion and Christian Charity, and the supremacy of LAW, ORDER and CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOM.

"Its Members associate in honor of King William the III, Prince of Orange, whose name they bear, and whose immortal memory they hold in reverence, tending as he did, under Divine Providence, to the overthrow of the most oppressive bigotry, and the restoration of Pure Religion and Liberty. They revere the Memory of that Immortal Prince, not only as a Patriot, a Constitutional Monarch, and a Hero, but as a true Christian; and hope in the adoption of his name, to emulate his virtues, by maintaining Religion without persecution, or trenching upon the rights of any.

"The Orange Society lays no claim to exclusive loyalty, or exclusive Protestantism; but it admits no man within its pale whose principles are not loyal, and whose creed is not Protestant.

"Disclaiming an intolerant spirit, the Society demands, as an indispensable qualification, without which the greatest and the wealthiest may seek admission in vain, that the candidate shall be believed to be incapable of persecuting or injuring any one, on account of his religious opinions; the duty of every Orangeman being to aid and defend all loyal subjects, of every religious persuasion, in the enjoyment of their Constitutional rights.

"The rules of the society are open not only to members of the Institution, but to the whole community; there is no reserve, except the signs and symbols, whereby Orangemen know each other; and these mysteries are essential to the proper qualification of the Brotherhood, the recognition of the members, and the prevention of intrusion and imposture from strangers and enemies.

"The association is general, not confined to any particular place, person or nation, but extends itself wherever a Loyal Protestant Briton is to be found, to the remotest corners of the Globe, for the establishment of Protestant Faith and British Liberty, to the latest ages of posterity. Its whole Institution is one neighborhood, within which every Orangeman is at home, in the farthest parts of the world; and such is the mechanism of the Association, that while its operations are thus extended, its every movement is alike felt and answered in every part.

"In short, the Orange Institution, like a glorious moral luminary, is intended to pour its refulgence, not on one part only of the ample circumference of the British dominions, but simultaneously on every portion, equally enlightening the whole periphery.

"The Institution in these Colonies, can never be suppressed, but by means which would subvert the Constitution, and annihilate the connection with the Mother Country.

"In many quarters, where the true nature of the Orange Institution is not properly known, its designs and objects have, by some, been misunderstood, and by others misrepresented. From the name it bears,—being connected in every one's mind with the history of parties in Ireland, some are apt to suppose that its sphere is necessarily confined; not reflecting that an instrument, which has been chiefly used in the country of its birth to suppress Rebellion, repel Invasion, and secure Domestic Tranquillity, may be found equally efficacious to loyal men of all countries, in protecting their lives, liberties and properties in these Colonies. The Society is constituted upon the broadest principles of National Freedom. It takes its stand upon the glorious principles of the Revolution of 1688; it lays its foundation in the field of British Liberty, it disdains the badge of faction, and knows no emblem save the "Altar and the Throne."

"As the Prince of Orange was invited to England by a Coalition of Parties, who were united by a common sense of their sacred duty, to preserve their Religion and Liberties, so the Orange Society, named after that Immortal Prince, invites a similar combination, and calls upon the sons of Britain, to lay aside political feuds, and, like their illustrious ancestors, who signed and sealed the Great Covenant of Freedom, to sacrifice every private consideration, and establish a centralization of Freedom, upon such a comprehensive basis, as will enable every limb and fibre to receive vitality and nourishment from the parent stem."

The Orange Oath or Obligation I will also read:—

"I, A—B,—do solemnly and voluntarily swear, that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and to Her lawful Heirs and Successors, in the Sovereignty of Great Britain and Ireland, and of these Provinces dependant on, and belonging to, the said Kingdom, so long as she or they shall maintain the Protestant Religion and the Laws of this country: that I will, to the utmost of my power, defend them against all traitorous conspiracies and attempts, which I shall know to be against her or any of them; that I will steadily maintain the connections between the Colonies of British America and the Mother Country, and be ever ready to resist all attempts to weaken British influence, or dismember the British Empire; that I will be true and faithful to every brother Orangeman in all just actions, neither wronging him nor knowing him to be wronged or injured, without giving him due notice thereof, and preventing it if in my power. I swear that I will ever hold sacred the name of our Glorious Deliverer, King William the Third, Prince of Orange; in grateful remembrance of whom, I solemnly promise (if in my power), to celebrate his victory over James at the Boyne, in Ireland, by assembling with my Brethren, in their Lodge Room, on the 12th day of July, in every year; I swear that I am not, nor ever will be, a Roman Catholic or Papist; nor will I marry a Roman Catholic or Papist, nor educate my children, nor suffer them to be educated in the Roman Catholic Faith, nor am I now, or ever will be, a member of any Society, or body of men that are enemies to Her Majesty and our Glorious Constitution; that I never was, to my knowledge or belief, rejected in, or expelled from any Orange Lodge; I further declare, that I will do my utmost to support and maintain the Loyal Orange Institution; obey all regular Summonses, and pay all just dues, (if in my power); and observe and obey the Constitution and Laws of the same; and lastly, I swear, that I will always conceal, and never in any way whatsoever, disclose or reveal, the whole, or any part of the signs, words, or tokens, that are now about to be privately communicated to me, unless I shall be duly authorized so to do by the proper authorities* of the Orange Institution, of which I am now about to become a member. So help me God, and keep me steadfast, in this my Orangeman's Obligation."

*The proper authorities here referred to, are a Warrant under the Great seals of the Grand Lodge, or a special Authority from a Grand Officer.

I shall be prepared to hear it alleged by hon members on the Opposition side of this House, that the Orange Institution is an illegal association—that Orangemen seek to proscribe Roman Catholics, to persecute them, and deprive them of those privileges to which, as subjects of the British Crown, they are entitled, and that they are the sworn enemies of peace and good order. I ask you, Mr Speaker, and the hon members of this House, if there be anything in the "Declaration," or "Obligation" which I have just read, that evidences illegality? Our national boast is, that we are a Protestant nation, and we may be assured, that to our Protestantism owe we it, that we are a great and free people. Had James II succeeded in subverting the Protestant religion, and replacing Britain under the yoke of the Papacy, where at this time, would be