

the sympathy of England, and how ardent her wish to indemnify us for our sufferings, and to reconcile us to our fortune. Sir, I feel I am warranted in asserting, that the assent of the catholics of Ireland, which was so laboriously solicited, was obtained upon the express promise of their perfect emancipation; and that promise was violated with that noble contempt of good faith, with which almost every minister preserves his power in defiance of his honour, and prosecutes the vulgar libeller who dares to say that he is a villain. But, sir, if that measure was in fact forced upon us, be pleased to look at the change which we have suffered. From the stature of an independent nation, legislating for herself, exercising that right, without which liberty is but a name, of deciding upon what occasions and to what extent she ought to tax herself, she has sunk to the dimensions of a province, degraded from the rank, and even the name, of a nation, and depending upon the mercy of a power, with which she cannot parley, for adjusting in what contingency and to what amount she shall be a residuary claimant upon the fruits of her own labour; for measuring how much of her blood, instead of feeding her growth, shall be wasted in ruinous and wanton wars, which her independence might have contributed to check, and in the result of which it cannot even be pretended that she can have any ultimate interest; and, last of all, (a state the most humiliating and agonizing!) she is hanging upon the caprice, the ignorance, and the malice of her most rancorous enemies, for such representations as may lead those who are in authority over her, instead of yielding to the natural spirit of mildness and benevolence, to enact such laws of rigour, as supersede every known and ordinary rule of