

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

As introductory to the Report of the important Controversial Discussion between the Rev. Messrs. Pope and Maguire, we feel it our duty to lay before the Public the arrangements which preceded the meetings for the above object.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 11th of April, 1827, at the house of Mr. Tims, in Grafton street, at which Messrs. Pope and Maguire were present; when it was resolved, that as the points about to be discussed equally affected the Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches, so there should be an equality in every particular, in order that the public, on the after consideration, might be satisfied that the Discussion had been conducted in the most impartial manner, and entered upon with the spirit of kindness and mutual good feeling.

After several meetings, in which we have the gratification to say, every disposition was evinced on both sides to act with liberality and candor, while at the same time principle was upheld with uncompromising steadiness, the Reverend Gentlemen having finally settled the points for discussion, and the undersigned, definitely and with their entire approbation, having arranged the preliminaries, the day of meeting was fixed for the 19th day of April. From the impossibility of procuring the Rotunda for six successive days, (the shortest time the discussion could last,) and no more spacious or equally commodious place for meeting presenting itself, the Lecture-room of the Dublin Institution, Sackville street, was taken; and in the result manifested that, as to situation, necessity had compelled, what judgment ultimately approved.