

potentate, hath or ought to have any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence or authority ecclesiastical or civil within these realms." As long as the Catholics acknowledge a foreign jurisdiction, their church may become as much a political as it is a religious institution. How can they be depended upon in all cases as to the state, when their consciences are under the direction of a clergy who are bound by oath to obey the Pope? And is not the present Pope the creature, or rather the subject of our public and most inveterate enemy, who exercises the power of dispensing with oaths, and of dissolving people from their allegiance? This is a formidable objection to all further concessions to the Catholics.

The same liberality which has been so meritoriously granted to religious sects was also extended to political relations. The kingdom of Ireland had always been governed with a rod of iron; the jealousy of the British parliament had imposed restrictions on her trade and commerce at once oppressive, cruel and absurd; but during this happy reign they have been gradually removed. In 1778, a small beginning was made, but jealousy choked it in the bud. In 1780, good sense prevailed, and the trade of Ireland was placed on a liberal footing. It was no longer treated like an infant colony, and bound by unnatural restrictions.

In 1782, the British parliament renounced all power over that of Ireland, declaring it free and independent; and at the same time the king signified his intention of surrendering many important parts of his prerogative; and this magnanim-