

they may even depose, or murder him; especially if he has been excommunicated by the Pope. That, in their opinion, so imprescriptible is this sacred right of insurrection, that no oaths, or compacts can supercede it. That all heretics that is protestants, may be murdered and destroyed; and that no faith is to be kept with them. And, lastly, that the Romish Church can dispense with oaths, and absolve its members from any declarations to the contrary.

Such are the opinions which the oath of allegiance imputes to the Catholics—and indeed it is impossible to conceive maxims more diabolical. They strike at the very root of all civil society. Is it possible that they can be the doctrines of Christianity? of that mild and amiable religion, whose first precept is universal love and charity, forgiveness of enemies, and submission to injuries? of the meek and benevolent Jesus, who refused to call down fire from heaven upon those who opposed his gospel and insulted God himself in his person? yet they *were* incontestibly the doctrines of the Romish Church.

This position I shall prove not from “lying pamphlets, the productions of ignorance, “malevolence, and fanatical phrenzy,” but by an authority, which Mr. *Burke* himself will scarcely be inclined to dispute, that of the *Pope himself*. From the canon law, a code which was compiled from the decrees of councils, the opinions of the fathers, and the decretal epistles