

No further official appeal was heard from Catholics until 1866, although in 1837 the historian Lingard addressed a spirited protest to the Lord Chancellor on the occasion of Queen Victoria's taking the Declaration.

On the 20th March, 1866, Sir Colman O'Loughlin moved for leave to introduce into the British House of Commons a bill abolishing the Declaration in as far as it concerned the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Chancellor of Ireland. His motion was seconded by the Protestant Sir John Gray. In making his motion, Sir Colman O'Loughlin pointed out that the Lord Lieutenant was obliged to take the oath in the presence of members of the Irish Privy Council, many of whom were Catholics. That, he said, was manifestly an offensive proceeding, and he asked the House to abolish this relic of barbarism. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking for the Ministry of the day, admitted that "the words of the Declaration were of a very painful character," that "they had become unnecessary, and as they were now more likely to give pain than to serve any sensible purpose, it was impossible for the government to refuse its consent," to the introduction of Sir Colman O'Loughlin's bill.

The second reading came up on May 8th, 1866. In the course of the debate Mr. Cogan said :

"It was particularly offensive that the Lord Lieutenant should be obliged to make a declaration that the doctrines of Roman Catholics were idolatrous and superstitious. In the interest of peace and conciliation and Christian charity the Bill should receive the assent of the House."

The remarks of Mr. Chichester Fortescue were still stronger:

"This Declaration against Transubstantiation," he said, "was so utterly indefensible and devoid of foundation, that it required but the touch of any member of the House to make it fall to the ground. The only wonder was that officials should have so long been compelled on entering office to stigmatize in terms which amounted to nothing short of contempt, the sacred doctrines of the Church to which many gentlemen of the highest rank in the country adhered."

The bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on June 12th, 1866. Only four members voted against it; their names deserve recognition; only Messrs. Whiteside, Newdegate, Whalley and Chambers, amongst all the members of the Commons, were