

were, we find, expressed "that the Dissenters and Catholics would become two separate parties."

But though this, and the other causes I have adverted to, had, at the commencement of the year 1798, a good deal checked the advance of the conspiracy in that region which had given it birth and strength, there were still immense numbers organized and armed throughout the North, who, under Protestant leaders,—such as were, at this time, the great majority of the United Chiefs,—would have felt too confident in their own power of giving a direction to the revolution to have any fears from the predominance of their outnumbering allies. Whatever of physical strength, too, might have been lost to the Union in Ulster had been more than a hundred fold made up by the spread of the organization elsewhere; and from the returns made, in the month of February this year, to Lord Edward, as head of the Military Committee, it appeared that the force at that time, regimented and armed, throughout Ireland, amounted to little less than 300,000 men.