

that time exposed. The following admirable *exposé* of Orange principles, is selected from the numerous resolutions and addresses, at that time adopted by many of the Lodges.

*"Declaration of the Orangemen of the County of Down.*

"We, the Orangemen of the County of Down, feel it a duty to our country and ourselves at the present crisis, to make this public avowal of the causes that led to, and the principles which actuated our Association.

"In the years immediately preceding the Rebellion of 1798, when numerous and active conspirators were organizing treason, the danger of our country aroused those principles of our forefathers, which had slumbered in our breasts since the Revolution; and the loyal Protestants of the North, resolved to support the laws, and to defend with all their power, the Government and Religion their ancestors had bled to establish. And in order the more effectually to resist the machinations of *combined* traitors, to expose their designs, and to protect the wavering, or the weak, from their arts and intimidations, they formed an *Association*, secured from the intrusion of the disaffected by precautionary signs, and bound by solemn obligations, to loyalty and to mutual assistance in the active maintenance of the Constitution of their country, as established at the glorious Revolution, under the happy auspices of King William the Third, Prince of Orange.

"The well-affected hailed the Institution with joy, and pressed forward in great numbers to join its standard, becoming throughout the kingdom the watchful sentinels of Government, and the active assistants of the laws. And when Rebellion was (through the blessing of Divine Providence) subdued, we feel an honest pride in the conviction, that the Orangemen, by their humble, yet zealous exertions, aided the Government in no slight degree, towards its speedy extinction.

"About that period, when, as at present, we were assailed by every species of calumny that the malice of *disappointed treason* could invent and disseminate, we unanimously adopted and published the following declaration. 'We solemnly declare in the presence of Almighty God, that the idea of injuring any man on account of his religion never entered our heads, we regard every loyal subject as our friend, be his religion what it may; *we have no enemies but the enemies of our country.*' To this declaration we now once more solemnly subscribe. Our principles are unalterably the same, and deeply do we deplore the attempts now so conspicuously made, to raise the cry of religious war in this land. However, when we know that treason is once more organizing in this kingdom—when we behold the seditious poison daily issuing from the press—the State and its venerable Religion reviled and condemned by *self-constituted inquisitors*—when we mark the *pardoned conspirators* of the late Rebellion, fanning the torch of discord into *fresh* flame—when the Government is braved—the laws and their venerable guardians traduced, and our loyal Association attacked, we cannot allow an ill-timed and false idea of liberality to suppress the expression of our feelings, and prevent us from making this declaration of our confirmed veneration for the glorious Constitution of this realm as established in Church and State, and our determination, by a dutiful and active co-operation with the