

starving curates and hungry adventurers to vituperate their unmeasured invectives. The Papal Hierarchy is purely a spiritual government. It *does not*, because it *cannot*, affect the government of our most gracious Queen. The Roman Catholic Bishops are as far removed from all interference with the secular government of our Queen, as our Protestant Bishop at Jerusalem, our Protestant Bishop in France, nay, our Protestant Bishop in Italy itself, are removed from, interference with the governments of those respective countries. In name, then, only, is the difference between their Hierarchical and Vicars Apostolic form of government.

What, then, means your threat, my Lord, that on this subject "the law shall be examined?" In one breath you boast that "England vindicates the right to freedom of religious opinion;" in the next, declare that, because of its exercise, the establishment of a Roman Catholic hierarchy, "the law shall be examined!" By what process of reasoning are we to reconcile these contradictions? Pity and indignation alternately arrest the mind in the effort to eke out your meaning. Why have you, my Lord, shrunk to the dimensions of an ordinary platform declaimer against Popery? My Lord, it is neither wise nor prudent to talk of "examining the law," in reference to the Roman Catholics. They are composed of matter equally inflammable with ourselves; and desperate must be the man that would fling the sparks of a fearful ignition amongst them. Conjointly with us they pay the same taxes, obey the same laws, live under the same constitution, and fight the same battles for its preservation. On the blood of Roman Catholics, commingled with our own, has floated for centuries, proudly and triumphantly, the ark of civil and religious liberty. If France were to invade our shores—she who nurses her spirit of revenge with the burning memory of her defeat at Waterloo—would you talk of examining the law in reference to Roman Catholics? Shall they who man our fleets, and fill our armies, whose bravery and fidelity have never been surpassed—shall they whose Bishop, at the solicitation of our English Government, went to Newfoundland and preserved his people from a general disaffection to the mother country, and for which our Government awarded him a palace and an income—shall they who enrich the nation with the best magistrates, and most peaceful citizens, be thus wantonly and ignorantly insulted? My Lord, I know of no crime so black, no villainy so atrocious, as the work of religious persecution. Beware, I beseech you, how you fulfil the prophecies of those who confound the inspirations of a merciful Deity, with the sectarianism of a base sophistry; who trade upon the credulity of the flocks "committed to their charge," and convert the principles of the decalogue into a nefarious commerce. Beware how you give signal success to the rampant bigotry of our Irish Clergy, who gangrene society to its depth and its extremities, with the poison of their vulgar prejudices. Beware how you extend the panoply of obsolete Acts of Parliament over that living mass of vice and corruption—the impassioned followers of wild fanaticism. Beware, my Lord, I conjure you, lest you disinter the ashes of the worst characters of human nature—lest you infuse a fiendish ferocity into their resuscitated spirit—lest Smithfield should again blaze out in fires of persecution, and our best citizens, and most learned men be immolated upon the altars of our Protestant prejudices. Already has your Letter disturbed the frame work of our social condition, and the absorbing topic of the day, the Hierarchy and penal enactments, has deprived us, as a nation, of the character of religious freedom. It will be well for yourself, my Lord, if you are able to restore tranquility to the country. Your conduct is the experimentalism of a wretched policy, aggravated by the positive worthlessness of your political