

church and state, added much to the comfort and happiness of those whom they relieved, we are called upon no less cheerfully to praise him for resisting a farther concession which he conceived dangerous to his government.

Whatever be the opinion of some individuals concerning the propriety of Catholic emancipation, the king's first motive for refusing his concurrence is in the highest degree honourable. He considers, and perhaps justly, that such a measure is inconsistent with his coronation oath. This scrupulous adherence to the sanctity of an oath, hath secured the gratitude and admiration, the affection and confidence of all ranks of men, even of those who conceive themselves sufferers by his firmness, and all regret the advanced age of our venerable sovereign, who rises in virtue as his years increase.

Here we have a sacred pledge of the excellence of his moral principles and the fervour of his piety; and to shew that he was actuated on this occasion by the purest motives; on being informed many years ago that the Catholics in Scotland were too poor to support their clergy, he bestowed upon their priests a small annual pension, which he quadrupled to the bishops.

But the claims of the Catholics to total emancipation, may be refused on the strongest grounds. While this body acknowledge the spiritual jurisdiction of the Pope, they act directly in opposition to one of the fundamental doctrines of British liberty, which we ratify with an oath, "that no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or

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