

trous] as likewise in their bearing the *infamy* or perjury rather than the *guilt* of it. In fact, the whole latter part of the Declaration is swelled out with implied charges against Catholics, of evading the obligation of oaths by 'equivocations, mental reservations, and Papal dispensations,' which vile expedients, if they actually possessed them, it is self-evident, would render the whole Declaration nugatory.

General Thornton, in his late Parliamentary Speech, against the *Declaration*, which pronounces the Catholics guilty of *Idolatry*, takes up the subject on the grounds just stated, that is to say, upon Protestant grounds. Accordingly, he feelingly appeals to the Members of Parliament themselves, whether it be not 'abhorrent from their religious and moral feelings,' to charge their fellow Christians upon oath, with the guilt of idolatry, while they not only clear themselves of that crime, but also were acquitted of it by the most learned Protestant Bishops and Divines this country could boast of, when the Declaration was devised.* The General then argues as follows: 'How is it to be accounted for, on any just principle, that those, who, preparatory to their going into holy orders, are called upon to subscribe to the 39 Articles of Religion, after it has been their duty to make this subject their particular study, should only be required to consider the practice as having *given occasion to many superstitions*, when the Members of both Houses of Parliament, on taking their seats, are obliged to declare, that they solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, do believe the practice not only to be superstitious, but likewise *idolatrous*?—Let me beseech the House to consider well the consequences of it.'—Here the Rt. Rev. Prelate chooses to make a vigorous assault upon the General, by way of proving that the law requires no stronger declarations against the Catholics, from Members of Parliament, than it does from the Clergy of the Establishment; and that the latter, in subscribing the 39 Articles, do, in fact, charge the Catholics with *idolatry*. Let us now attend to his proofs. He says: "The Articles, besides saying that the doctrine of Transubstantiation has *given occasion to many superstitions*, say moreover, that it is *repugnant to the plain sense of scripture, and overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament*: and that the Sacrament was *not, by Christ's ordinance, reserved, carried about, lifted up, and worshipped*!

* Such as the Bishops Jeremy Taylor, Blandford, Montague, Forbes, Gunning, Archbishop Sheldon, Prebendary Thorndike, Chillingworth, &c. When the Declaration was under consideration in the House of Peers Bishop Gunning, of Ely, protested that he could not in conscience swear to. *Burnet's Hist. of his own Times.*