

man Catholic of my rank in life, and myself, with respect to our civil franchises. He votes for a Member in Parliament as I do, and is therefore represented in Parliament as I am. He has the same protection of property, and of person from the same laws, in the enacting of which he has the same share. He can pursue his industry with the same security, and realize the fruits of it for himself and his family by purchase or otherwise, in the same way. In what then is he to be emancipated? Something, indeed, remains yet to be granted, and which a perseverance in loyalty and quiet would, I am persuaded, have obtained before this, by which three or four wealthy individuals might gratify their ambition or their vanity; but what the general body suffers from this point being withheld, or what the granting of it could effect towards a Reform among that description of subjects, is beyond my comprehension to discover.

With respect to the power and influence of Government, I never knew a man who, when he was out of office, did not complain of them, and as soon as he got into office, did not exert them, and endeavour to encrease them. If he lessened them in one way, he took care to extend them in another, and much has lately been attempted in that way by our state quacks and mountebanks. I do not pretend to say that abuses may not creep in, wherever there is power; but every body knows that four millions of people cannot be governed without some power: and if the supreme magistrate has not *lawful* power enough to govern them by, either he will not be able to govern them at all, (and then there can be nothing but confusion and mischief) or else he must govern them by unlawful means; and I appeal to any man of common sense, whether it is not better that a king should govern according to fixed and settled laws, which are known to all the nation, than by undue influence, bribery, corruption, and the like.

But say some, "abolish tithes"—I fear this will not answer—I do not expect much towards a reform from wrong and robbery. They who * understand those things tell us, that the settlement of tithes in these realms hath been by the ancient and undoubted laws of the land. When all the lands of England were the demesne of the kings, and they enfeoffed the Barons for the defence of the kingdom,

reserving

* Lord Coke.