

England;—nor in the truth of Christianity;—nor in the existence of God—but that ‘the invocation of any Saint, and the *Sacrament*, (as it is ignorantly termed of the Mass) as they are now used in the church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous.’ Thus we see that a M. P. may invoke the Devil to take away his own soul or that of his neighbour, and may proclaim that the Mass, as used by the Russians, Greeks, and many other sects, believing in Transubstantiation, is *holy and salutary*, and still keep his seat; provided he swear that these *self-same things*, as used by Catholics, are idolatrous! Gracious heaven! was ever such a qualification for legislating devised or thought of by any human beings, except by the last Parliament of Charles II. ! If history had been quite silent on the subject, would not the Act itself prove that the Parliament and the nation were in a crisis of frenzy when it was passed? In fact, history does inform us, that they both were then worked up, by an unprincipled hypocrite, who was brought up a rebel and died a regicide assassin,* [assisted by the perjury of an unnatural monster,]† to believe that the Catholics, who had saved the King’s life in their Priests’ hiding-holes, when he was a Protestant, at the risk of their own lives, and when they might have gained £100,000 by betraying him, had plotted, now that he was a Catholic, to murder him, by stabbing him, by poisoning him, and by shooting him with silver bullets, and afterwards to bring over 30,000 pilgrims, armed with black bill-hooks, from St. Jago in Spain, to overturn the government! History tells us, moreover, that, on the credit of this plot, near 20 Catholics were actually hanged and quartered, and all their nobility confined in prison!—I have spoken of our ancestors, I now speak of our posterity, concerning whom I will confidently affirm, that if any thing will equal their astonishment, that so unjust, false, malicious, and absurd an Act, as that containing the *Declaration*, should have passed through the Houses in the 17th century, and this under the hypocritical pretext of ‘An Act for the better preservation of his Majesty’s person and Government;’ will be that the same Act, and under the same hypocritical title, should have remained unrepealed till the present period in the nineteenth century: And yet it does stand unrepealed at the present hour,—a signal monument of the *religious and moral integrity* of the Catholics, in still refusing to purchase honours and emoluments at the expense of a false oath, [which persons of other religions have taken, with the consciousness either of swearing a falsehood, or of swearing what they do not understand, when they swear that the Catholic worship is *idola-*

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