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DUBLIN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY VICTORIA, BY THE
GRACE OF GOD QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,
DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, AND SO-FORTH,

The humble Address of the Members of the Dublin Protestant Association and other Protestants agreeing thereto,

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

Impressed with a deep conviction that dangers of no ordinary kind encompass the throne and the great institutions of the state, and being to these, on principle, devotedly attached, and, moreover, being animated by the most sincere and anxious desire for the welfare of your Majesty and all the members of your Majesty's illustrious house; and feeling that, as Christian men, we are bound to avail ourselves of the privilege which has been secured to us by the Bill of Rights, of humbly approaching your Majesty's throne, to implore your Majesty's attention to the existence of these dangers, and the necessity of taking the proper steps to remove them, we beg leave, humbly and respectfully, to submit our views thereon to your Majesty; and we pray that He who has the hearts of kings in his rule and governance, may so dispose and govern your heart, as that you may ever seek His honour and glory, and that we and all your subjects may faithfully serve, honour, and obey you in Him, and for Him, according to His blessed Word and ordinance.

1. The condition of the united Church of England and Ireland, may it please your Majesty, first demands consideration; and we humbly submit that it is in a very different position from what it should be. If properly worked, besides being a blessing to a nation, it would be a bulwark of the throne. Neglected, injured, defrauded, allowed to become the medium in England of teaching Puseyistical falsehoods, and thus inducing many to make shipwreck of their faith, and in Ireland, used, as it has been, by our rulers, to reward the inconsistency and treachery of such of the clergy as worship the golden image which they set up, and who, in turn, when possessed of power, wield it tyrannically and oppressively—the Church, we say, has lost much of its power for good, has been weakened in the affections of the people, and with it the Throne, both of which should be inseparably united. If the Throne is to be preserved, therefore, the Church must be purified. Men should not be allowed to minister therein who teach the whole cycle of Popish errors, and who are labouring to bring in Popery once more into this kingdom. Here is an evil which, if not met, involves the most serious consequences. In the Irish branch of the Church dignities and preferments should not be given as the reward of treason to the Church's principles, but men whose qualifications of head and heart are undemable should receive the same for the benefit of the Church and the whole population.

Further, may it please your Majesty, we have to express our belief, that any attempt on the part of the government to defraud the Irish branch of the Church of any portion of its property, either now or at any other time, will involve the Throne in the greatest peril. To protect the Church from the possibility of any such assault, the state enacted that the following oath should not be taken by all Roman Catholic members of parliament, they being the only parties supposed likely to look on the Church with an eye of hatred:—

"I do swear, that I will defend, to the utmost of my power, the settlement of property within this realm, as established by the laws; and I do hereby disclaim, disavow, and solemnly abjure any intention to subvert the present Church Establishment, as settled by law within this realm; and I do solemnly swear, that I never will exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled, to disturb or weaken the Protestant religion, or Protestant government, in the United Kingdom; and I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare, that I do make this declaration, and every part thereof, in the plain and ordinary sense of the words of this oath, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatever.—So help me, God."

The Roman Catholic members have again and again openly violated that oath—an unmistakable proof, if proof were wanted, of the folly, the blindness, the fatuity of conceding to the members of a corrupt church privileges to which Christian men are alone entitled. To convince your Majesty, however, of the perils of the Throne involved in any such attempt, we deem it right to remind your Majesty of the Mutual compact entered into between your

Majesty and the nation on the day of your coronation, when your Majesty avowed your solemn determination to "maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion established by law;" and also to "maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the United Church of England and Ireland, and the territories thereunto belonging;" and further to "preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England and Ireland, and to the churches committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them."

On this subject we need say no more than that any minister who would venture to make an assault upon the Church would be guilty not only of sacrilege, as it regards God, but also of treason as it regards your Majesty.

2. We see in the education measures, adopted both in England and in this country, the deadliest perils to the throne and the British state generally. Your Majesty is aware that the British nation has decided what is true religion, and what is false. "The true religion," thank God, is happily established amongst us. The religion of the Church of Rome your Majesty solemnly declared, at your coronation, to be "superstitious and idolatrous." Notwithstanding, however, the national decision as to the truth of Protestant religion, and as to the falsehoods and superstitions of Popery, the Committee of Council of Education in England—where, we may observe, is unconstitutional in its character, and as such was protested against by the House of Lords—is, at this present time, endowing Roman Catholic schools in England; and thus accepting means to secure that the falsehoods and superstitions of the Roman Catholic Church should be taught to immense numbers of the children of England.

In Ireland, we desire to inform your Majesty, similar means are adopted—on, however, a far larger scale—to teach the youth of the poor of the country the false and unscriptural dogmas of the Romish apostacy. We grieve to have to add, that the additional evils exist here of a Romish apostacy. We grieve to have to add, that the additional evils exist here of a Romish idolatrous college, standing as a richly endowed national institution; and of three "godless colleges," the system of education in all of which is not only not based on God's holy word, but is absolutely adverse thereto; and must needs rear up, as the result of its teaching, a generation opposed to truth, to Christianity, to godliness, to order, to the British constitution, and the British throne; for it is demonstrable, that a Popish and infidel population do not hold any of these above named things in repute.

But, if the natural result of such educational systems must needs be perilous to the stability of the throne, how much more is the peril enhanced by the just judgements of an offended God! The pourings of his wrath, in time past, for such national rebellion against His commands, should be a warning to the whole nation against continuing this fatal sin of supporting idolatrous institutions, the direct expense of which, to the British state, is at the lowest calculation, more than a quarter of a million pounds annually, which sum, if devoted to the evangelization of Ireland, would, under God, eradicate error and superstition, and change the country from an acedama to a paradise.

3. The presence of Papists in your Majesty's Privy Council, in the government, in both houses of parliament, in the municipalities of the country, and in the halls of justice, involves a peril to the throne of fearful magnitude. The appointment of Papists to situations of power and eminence in your Majesty's foreign dependencies, greatly increase the evil. True to the interests of their own church and of her ruler, the Pope, they pursue, both at home and abroad, their plans to undermine the British Constitution and to establish Popery. For this we do not blame them. They are in earnest. What they believe to be for the interest of the church, that they pursue with unremitting and devoted industry; nor are they scrupulous as to the means they employ, as their church teaches them that the end will justify the means. The removal of these parties from station and eminence, as unqualified for power, and undeserving of it must be effected, or the throne cannot stand, and the constitution must be broke down. We will only add, on this subject, that the insidious attempt recently made by the Popish master of the mint, to abolish important titles of your Majesty from the coin of the realm—which we rejoice to say has been happily frustrated—exemplifies, in a remarkable manner, the design of the Romish party to deprive your Majesty of that station which those titles represent.

4. The recognition of the assumed titles and dignities of the Romish prelates in the United Kingdom and in the

Colonies, is calculated to beset the throne and constitution with great perils. The Bill of Rights, may it please your Majesty, forbids communion between the occupant of the British throne and the See or Church of Rome; and yet we grieve to say, that men possessing no other claim to dignity, save that conferred by the Church of Rome, have been, by your Majesty's government, allowed to take precedence over the nobility of the land, and over the dignitaries of the Established Church. There is no doubt of the apportionment of England into bishoprics by the Romish See, and the appointment of Romish prelates thereto, whose claims to title, dignity, and nobility will be fully as strong as those which have been already recognized in Ireland. The concession of these titles there may, however, be a more serious matter, and lead to inconveniences, evils, and dangers of no ordinary kind. We therefore implore your Majesty not to sanction the usurpation of those men, nor allow the Bishops of the united Church of England and Ireland to be damaged thereby.

5. The means adopted, through the instrumentality of infidel, revolutionary, and demoralizing publications, to corrupt the masses of the people, while no efforts, commensurate with the greatness of the evil, are made by any parties to counteract their pernicious influence, likewise encompass the throne and constitution with great dangers. Hundreds of thousands, we might almost say millions, of these noxious and demoralizing publications issue weekly from the London press, and spread their poisonous influence all over the face of society. In them the most sacred principles are awfully profaned; the throne is spoken of with contempt, and the aristocracy of the land with deep and malignant hatred, and the spirit is spreading so rapidly and so extensively amongst the people, that even in the House of Commons, we grieve deeply to learn, there are many who seem disposed to speak of your Majesty with far less respect than would have been tolerated in the times when Protestant principles were in the ascendant.—The idea of one absolute democratic assembly has been broached, apparently not much to the dissatisfaction of your Majesty's ministry, but to the utter disgust and abhorrence of all your Majesty's faithful Protestant subjects in this country, who would, as a body, shed their blood in defence of your Majesty's right to the throne, being Protestant. No one who feels an interest in the future destinies of this country, and of your Majesty's illustrious house, can fail to anticipate serious evils as the result of the process now in active operation, to demoralize the people and spread anarchy and revolution throughout the land. The holy word of God informs us, however, that if we fail to retain Him in our knowledge, if we do not make His word the guide of our national and individual conduct, He will deliver us up to a reprobate mind, and the result will be, that all sorts of evils will rush in one desolating torrent through the country; and, in their course, sweep away every vestige of the glorious time-honoured, and bloodsealed institutions of this once great and powerful kingdom. The remedy for this evil and danger, may it please your Majesty, is plain. Let God's word be exalted to its proper eminence; let its principles influence the court, the government, and the national councils, and blessings will flow on us like a river—imminent dangers will be averted—and peace, happiness, and prosperity universally prevail.

6. The lowering of the elective franchise in this country, so as to extend it to a very numerous class of ignorant and benighted Papists—from which your Majesty's ministers have persuaded your Majesty to expect "the most beneficial consequences"—we cannot, in the light of facts and of every day experience, believe to be aught else than an additional evil in those which already encompass the throne and the constitution of the country, and likely to result in dangerous consequences to both. May it please your Majesty, we humbly submit, that to confer power on members of the Romish Church is to give it to the priests of that church, who, in this country, adopt the most tyrannical means to punish with the horsewhip, with excommunication, with the terrors of their church, and finally, with the bullet of the assassin, the man who dares to exercise freedom of thought and liberty of action, and who will not bow his neck to the yoke of the ecclesiastical tyrants who claim absolute and uncontrolled dominion over his body and soul. To give power those priests is to give it to the Pope, your Majesty's arch enemy, whose sworn servants they are; so that the franchise act just passed can be said in sober truth, to have handed to a foreign potentate—and that potentate a foe to your Majesty, and one who claims spiritual dominion over your Majesty, and over your Majesty's subjects, and interferes even with the temporal laws of the realm—the representation of a great portion of this country, from which representation not "the most benefi