

Poetry.

[For the Royal Gazette.]
TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION.

ELIZABETH AT HER BROTHER'S TOMB.

I would from all my sorrows flee,
But where, O where shall I repose,
I'll plant, beneath the weeping tree
That shades his grave, this living rose:

Its fragrance shall my spirit cheer
As to the sod I oft repair,
And mem'ry's brightest, warmest fear,
Shall help to fertilize it there.

O mem'ry, mem'ry, what a sting
Dost thou within my bosom leave!
Thy sceptre yield, terrific king,
Nor longer bid my spirit grieve!

RESPONSE.

Turn, rambler fair, tread not again
These haunts of death, these hills of gloom;
Here silence holds a peaceful reign
O'er weeping willow, yew, and tomb.

As the pale orb of night ascends,
Her beams to shed on objects here,
Then haste thee hence, to join thy friends,
The joy of many a former year.

And look not back, nor ask me why
This sage command I urge of thee,
For scenes of life, and health, and joy,
Await thee, sister—quickly flee!

As Lot from Sodom sped his way,
Cast not a lingering look behind;
But spurn these relics in decay,
And throw thy sorrows on the wind.

Ah! soon, too soon, the trying hour
Will make thy last, thy earthly bed;
Then grieve not that a tyrant's power
Should crown with death the sufferer's head!

Here, housed secure from every storm,
I rest from all my earthly toil;
And though "my sister is the worm,"
From her embrace I ne'er recoil,

Nor shun the horrors of the night,
Though thick'ning darkness aid the gloom,
Till, call'd to rise to life and light,
I burst the covering of the tomb.

O, sister, in that awful hour
Mayest thou the sweets of Mercy prove,
By yielding to the sovereign power
Whose banner over thee is Love.

N. L. C.

A BILL
FOR THE RELIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S ROMAN
CATHOLIC SUBJECTS.

Whereas by various Acts of Parliament, certain restraints and disabilities are imposed on the Roman Catholic Subjects of his Majesty, to which other subjects of His Majesty are not liable: And whereas it is expedient that such restraints and disabilities shall be from henceforth discontinued: And whereas by various Acts certain oaths and declarations commonly called the declaration against transubstantiation and the invocation of Saints, and the sacrifice of the mass, as practised in the church of Rome, are or may be required to be taken, made, and subscribed, by the subjects of His Majesty, as qualifications for sitting and voting in Parliament, and for the enjoyment of offices, franchises and civil rights: Be it enacted by the king's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the commencement of this Act, all such parts of the said Acts as require the said declarations, or either of them, to be made or subscribed as a qualification for sitting and voting in Parliament, or for the exercise or enjoyment of any office, franchise, or civil right, by any of His Majesty's subjects, be, and the same are (save as hereinafter provided and excepted) hereby repealed.

And be it enacted, that from and after the commencement of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for any person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, being a peer, or who shall, after the commencement of this act, be returned as a member of the House of Commons, to sit and vote in either Houses of Parliament respectively, being in all other respects duly qualified to sit and vote therein, upon taking and subscribing the following oath, instead of the oaths of allegiance, abjuration, and supremacy, and instead of making and subscribing the declaration against transubstantiation and the invocation of Saints, and the sacrifice of the mass, as practised in the Church of Rome.

"I, A. B. do sincerely promise and swear, That I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fourth, and will defend him to the utmost of my power against all conspiracies and attempts whatever, which shall be made against his person, crown, or dignity; and I will do my utmost endeavour to disclose and make known to his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, all treasons and traitorous conspiracies which may be formed against him or them: And I do faithfully promise to maintain, support, and defend, to the utmost of my power, the succession of the Crown,

which succession by an act, intituled, 'An act for the further Limitation of the Crown and the better securing the rights and liberties of the subject,' is and stands limited to the Princess Sophia, Electress of Hanover, and the heirs of her body, being protestants; hereby utterly renouncing or abjuring any obedience or allegiance unto any other person claiming or pretending a right to the Crown of these realms: And I do further declare that it is not an article of my faith, and that I do renounce, reject, and abjure the opinion, that princes excommunicated or deprived by the Pope, or any other authority of the See of Rome, may be deposed or murdered by their subjects, or by any person whatsoever: And I do declare that I do not believe that the Pope of Rome, or any other foreign Prince, Prelate, person, state or potentate, hath or ought to have any temporal or civil jurisdiction, power, superiority, or pre-eminence, directly or indirectly, within this realm. 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 will never exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled, to disturb or weaken the protestant religion or protestant government in this 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 whatsoever."

Provided always and be it further enacted, That no peer professing the Roman Catholic Religion, and no person professing the Roman Catholic Religion who shall be returned a member of the House of Commons after the commencement of this act, shall be capable of sitting or voting in either House of Parliament respectively, unless he shall first take and subscribe the oath hereinbefore appointed and set forth, before the same persons, at the same times and places, and in the same manner as the oaths and declaration now required by law are directed to be taken and made; and that any such person professing the Roman Catholic Religion who shall sit and vote in either house of Parliament, without having first taken and subscribed the said oath in this act appointed and set forth in the manner above mentioned, shall be subject and liable to the same penalties, forfeitures, and disabilities, and the offence of so sitting and voting shall be followed and attended by and with the same consequences as are by law enacted and provided in the case of persons sitting and voting in either House of Parliament respectively, without taking the oaths and making the declaration now required by law to be taken and made.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion, to vote at elections of members to serve in Parliament, and to be elected such members, and also to vote at the elections of Representative Peers of Scotland and Ireland, and to be elected such Representative Peers, and to be enrolled as freeholders in any shires or stewartry of Scotland, and thereafter to vote in all proceedings of the court of freeholders, and to be chosen clerks or clerk of such Court, and to be chosen commissioner or delegate for choosing burgesses to serve in Parliament for any district or burghs in Scotland, being in all other respects duly qualified so to do, upon producing to the officer or other person who by law or custom is required to make the return at such election, or other presiding officer, the certificate hereinafter mentioned, of the oath hereby appointed and set forth having been duly taken and subscribed by the person producing the same, or upon taking and subscribing the said oath at the time and place of such election, instead of the oaths of allegiance, supremacy and abjuration, and instead of the declaration now by law required to be made and subscribed, and instead of such other oath or oaths as are now by law required to be taken by any of his Majesty's subjects, professing the Roman Catholic Religion, and also upon taking such other oath or oaths as may now be lawfully tendered to any person or persons offering to be elected at such elections.

And whereas by a certain act of parliament of Scotland made in the 8th and 9th session of the first Parliament of King William III, intituled "An act for the preventing the growth of Popery," and a certain declaration or formula, is therein contained, which it is expedient should no longer be required to be taken and subscribed; Be it therefore enacted, that so much of any acts as authorise the said declaration or formula to be tendered, or require the same to be taken, sworn, and subscribed, be and the same are hereby repealed, except as to such offices, places, and rights, as are hereinafter excepted.

And be it enacted, that it shall be lawful for any of his Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic religion, to hold, exercise, and enjoy, all civil and military offices and places of trust or profit under his Majesty, his heirs or successors, and to exercise any other franchise or civil right, except as hereinafter excepted, upon taking and subscribing, at the times and in the manner hereinafter mentioned, the oath hereinbefore appointed and set forth, instead of the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and declaration against transubstantiation, and such other oath or oaths as are or may be now by law required to be taken for the purpose aforesaid by any of his Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic Religion; Provided nevertheless, that such other oath or oaths, and such other declarations shall be made and taken, as are or may be by law required to be taken by any person or persons, on his or their admission into any such office or place of trust or profit respectively.

Provided always, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to enable any person or persons professing the Roman Catholic Religion, to hold or exercise the office of Regent of this united kingdom during the absence of his Majesty or his successors from the same, under whatever name, style, or title such Regent may be constituted or appointed; nor to enable any person, otherwise than as he is now by law enabled,

to hold or enjoy the office of lord high chancellor, lord keeper or lord commissioner of the great seal of Great Britain or Ireland; or of Lord Lieutenant or Lord deputy, or other chief governor or governors of Ireland.

And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful for any of his Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic religion, to be a member of any lay body corporate, and to hold any civil office or place of trust or profit therein, and to do any corporate act, or vote in any corporate election or other proceeding, upon taking and subscribing the oath hereby appointed and set forth, instead of the oaths of allegiance, abjuration, and supremacy, and instead of the declaration against transubstantiation; and upon taking also such other oath or oaths as may now by law be required to be taken by any person or persons becoming a member or members of such lay body corporate, or being admitted to hold any office or place of trust or profit within the same.

Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That nothing herein contained shall extend to authorize or empower any of his Majesty's subjects professing the Roman Catholic Religion, and being a member of any lay body corporate, to give any vote at, or in any manner to join in the election, presentation or appointment of any person to any ecclesiastical benefice whatsoever, or any office or place belonging to or connected with the united Church of England or Ireland, or the Church of Scotland, being in the gift, patronage, or disposal of such lay corporate body.

Provided also, and be it enacted, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to enable any person or persons otherwise than as they are now by law enabled, to hold, enjoy, or exercise any office, place, or dignity, of, in, or belonging to the united Church of England and Ireland, or the Church of Scotland, or any place or office whatever of or belonging to any of the ecclesiastical courts of judicature of this realm, or any court of appeal from or review of the sentences of such court or courts or of or belonging to any cathedral or collegiate or ecclesiastical establishment or foundation within the same; or any office or place whatever, and by whatever name the same may be called, of, in, or belonging to any of the colleges or halls of the said universities, or of the colleges of Eton, Westminster, or Winchester, or any college or school of ecclesiastical foundation within this realm; or to repeal, abrogate, or in any manner to interfere with any local statute, ordinance, or rule, which is or shall be established by competent authority within any such university, college, hall, or school, and by which Roman Catholics shall be prevented from being admitted thereto, or from residing or taking degrees therein: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to enable any person professing the Roman Catholic Religion to exercise any right of presentation to any ecclesiastical benefice whatsoever; and that in every case in which a right of presentation is or shall be vested in a person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, the same shall be and continue to be exercised in the same manner, and in no other, than is now by law required; save and except where such right of presentation shall belong to any office in the gift or appointment of His Majesty, his heirs or successors; in which case, if such office shall be held by a person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to appoint by commission under the great seal, such member or members of the privy council, being a protestant or protestants, as he or they shall think fit, to be a commissioner or commissioners for exercising such right of presentation, whilst such office shall be held by a person professing the Roman Catholic Religion.

Provided also, and be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful for any person professing the Roman Catholic Religion, directly or indirectly, to advise the Crown in the appointment to or disposal of any office or preferment, lay or ecclesiastical, in the United Church of England and Ireland, or of the Church of Scotland; and that if any such person shall presume to advise his Majesty, his heirs or successors, or the Lord Lieutenant or Lord Deputy, or other chief governor or governors of Ireland, touching or concerning any such appointment or disposal, he shall, being thereof convicted by due course of law, be deemed guilty of a high misdemeanour, and disabled for ever from holding any office, civil or military, under the crown.

And be it enacted, that every person professing the Roman Catholic religion, who shall after the commencement of this act be placed, elected, or chosen in or to the office of Mayor, provost, alderman, recorder, bailiff, town-clerk, magistrate, councillor, common councilman, or in or to any office of magistracy or place, trust, or employment, relating to the government of any city, corporation, borough, burgh, or district within the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, shall within one calendar month next before or upon his admission into any one of the aforesaid offices or trusts, take and subscribe the oath hereinbefore appointed and set forth in the presence of such person or persons respectively, as by the charters or usages of the said respective cities, corporations, burghs, boroughs, and districts, ought to administer the oath for due execution of the said offices or places respectively, and in default of such, in the presence of two justices of the peace, councillors, or magistrates of the said cities, corporations, burghs, boroughs, and districts, if such there be, or otherwise in the presence of two justices of the peace of the respective counties, ridings, divisions, or franchises wherein the said cities, corporations, burghs, boroughs, and districts are, which said oath shall either be entered in a book, roll, or other record to be kept for that purpose, or shall be filed amongst the records of the city, corporation, burgh, borough, or district.

(To be concluded in our next.)

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