

THE
ADDRESS
OF THE
Roman Catholic Prelates,
ASSEMBLED IN DUBLIN,
ON THE 18TH OF NOVEMBER, 1812,
TO THE
CLERGY AND LAITY
OF THE
Roman Catholic Churches
IN IRELAND.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

DUBLIN:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. FITZPATRICK,
CAPEL-STREET.

1812

THE
ADDRESS

OF THE

Roman Catholic Priests

ASSEMBLED IN DUBLIN

ON THE 23RD OF NOVEMBER 1817

TO THE

SECRETARY AND LITURGY

OF THE

Roman Catholic Churches

IN IRELAND

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

DUBLIN:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. TREATNICK

CARLE STREET,

Houses of the Oireachtas

TO THE
CLERGY AND LAITY
OF THE
Roman Catholic Churches
IN IRELAND.



REVEREND BROTHERS, BELOVED CHILDREN,
PEACE BE TO YOU!

RECURRING exigencies in the course of the last few years have repeatedly induced Us, as Guardians of the Roman Catholic Religion in Ireland, to declare our sentiments upon the subject of its concerns: and we have had the unspeakable satisfaction of witnessing that such declarations, on our part, were received by you with that Unanimity, and that Spirit, which proclaim to the World, that your inviolable attachment to the Creed of your Ancestors hath not hitherto been, and, under the Divine

Protection, never will be lessened, or impaired by privations, penalties, or hardships.

Of that conscientious loyalty, which all good Subjects owe to their King and to the State, and which the Spirit of our Religion so emphatically inculcates, you have given such unequivocal assurances, such unparalleled and satisfactory proofs, that the most distrustful ingenuity cannot possibly devise securities more binding.

We learn, notwithstanding, with the deepest regret, that in the opinion of many respectable individuals, your restoration to the full enjoyment of the blessings of the Constitution ought to be postponed, until, what We consider necessary to the integrity of our Religion, shall have been first surrendered: a surrender, to which, with the assistance of God, we shall prefer that of our lives.

We are also concerned to observe, that various attempts have been made, and are still persisted in, to mislead the public mind. Periodical papers and pamphlets, replete with misrepresentation, are unceasingly employed to frustrate the exertions of our friends, and exasperate the prejudices of our opponents.

Amongst these publications, We find it necessary to particularize certain Tracts, which have lately appeared, under the Title of *Columbanus ad Hibernos*, fraught with Misrepresentation and Calumny, and presuming to dictate, as Roman Catholic tenets, opinions contrary to the genuine Doctrines, and subversive of the Discipline of the Roman Catholic Church.

To obviate, as far as in our power, these mischievous attempts, We deem it a duty to announce to you the subsequent Resolutions, which We have this day unanimously adopted.

I. That We do hereby confirm and declare our unaltered adherence to the Resolutions unanimously entered into at our last general Meeting, on the 26th of February, 1810.

II. That we do hereby confirm our condemnation and censure of certain propositions, extracted from a book, entitled, *Abus sans Example, &c. by Pierre Louis Blanchard, R. Juigne, London, 1808*; and specified in our *Declaration* of the 3d of July and 21st of August, 1809: And further, We in like manner declare, that We will not grant faculties

of any kind to any Clergyman, who may or shall assert, that our afflicted Holy Father is a *Heretic, or a Schismatic, or the Author, or the Abettor of Heresy, or Schism.*

III. That, although the Substance of the Answers returned by Six Roman Catholic Universities, relative to the duties of Subjects, in the years 1788 and 1789, is manifestly contained in the Oath of Allegiance and Declaration which We have solemnly sworn; We think it nevertheless fitting to declare, that We consider those Answers as perfectly conformable to the doctrine and tenets of our Religion, and that We adopt them as our own.

IV. That admiring, as we do, the determination of the Roman Catholics of Ireland, to persevere in their temperate, firm, and constitutional efforts for the removal of the disabilities, which still continue to affect them, We contemplate with peculiar satisfaction the zeal, which they have evinced in their readiness to forego the attainment of civil advantages, rather than purchase them at the expense of any sacrifice, which might compromise or endanger the safety and integrity of their Religion.

V. That, as we are at present precluded from any intercourse with our Supreme Pastor, We feel ourselves utterly incompetent to propose or agree to any change, in the long-established mode of appointing Irish Roman Catholic Bishops.

VI. That We are firmly convinced, that no pledges or securities of more efficient obligation can be devised than those which We have already given; most humbly conceiving that our long continued endurance under the pressure of the Penal Code, from which a sacrifice of Conscience would have instantly relieved us, is proof incontrovertible, that the sacredness of an Oath is no where more binding than on the Consciences of Irish Roman Catholics.

VII. That our warmest thanks are justly due to JAMES BERNARD CLINCH, Esq. for the ability, learning, and zeal, which he has successfully displayed in his Refutation of the errors and slanders published under the Title of *Columbanus ad Hibernos*.

We conclude, Rev. Brothers, Beloved Children, by exhorting you to persevere in the Faith of your Forefathers in CHRIST; to

rest your hope on HIM, whose Promises cannot fail; and that your Faith and Hope be ever enlivened by Charity.

Once more, Rev. Brethren, Beloved Children, Peace be with you! *Amen.*

Dublin, 18th November, 1812,

<i>R. O'Reilly.</i>	<i>J. T. Troy.</i>	<i>T. Bray.</i>
<i>P. J. Plunkett.</i>	<i>D. Murray.</i>	<i>F. Moylan.</i>
<i>P. M'Mullen.</i>	<i>D. Delany.</i>	<i>W. Coppinger.</i>
(By Proxy) <i>E. Derry.</i>	<i>P. Ryan.</i>	<i>John Young.</i>
<i>C. O'Donnell.</i>	<i>T. Costello.</i>	<i>J. O'Shaughnessy.</i>
<i>P. M'Laughlin.</i>	<i>N. J. Archdeacon.</i>	<i>C. Sughrue.</i>
	(By Proxy)	
<i>J. Murphy.</i>	<i>J. Caulfield.</i>	<i>J. Power.</i>
	(By Proxy)	
<i>F. O'Reilly.</i>	<i>J. Flyn.</i>	<i>O. O'Kelly,</i> <i>V. C. Tuam.</i>
(By Proxy)	(By Proxy)	
<i>P. Daly,</i> <i>V. C. Ardagh.</i>	<i>R. Mansfield,</i> <i>V. C. Ossory.</i>	<i>G. Plunkett,</i> <i>V. C. Elphin,</i> <i>D. Mannin,</i> <i>V. C. Galway.</i>