

was by this means partially penetrated, and many accounts of their acts and doings, principles and purposes, became the themes of common conversation, and were published in various newspapers and other public prints in almost every State in the Union. These accounts were at first variant, and to some extent contradictory, but all that have been seen by, or brought to the knowledge of this minority, concur in ascribing to this party, the practices of observing *secrecy* as to their movement and purposes,—of binding its members by forms of oaths, to proscribe from all offices by their votes, or otherwise, if possessed of political power, all persons not of native birth, and all members of the Catholic religion, and of aiming at and laboring to obtain for themselves political power and place!

This minority have been furnished with the forms of the oaths which it is alleged are administered to the members of this party, to each one in succession as he attains, or is raised to the first, second and third degrees in said order or society, which have been printed, published and circulated in every direction, and remain, so far as this minority is informed, without any authoritative contradiction or denial, and to prove the correctness of which by oral testimony they have had suggested and named to them, an host of witnesses, none of whom it was the pleasure of the majority (as has been seen) to summon or examine! Here are the forms of these oaths and obligations:

#### OATH OR OBLIGATION OF THE FIRST DEGREE.

“In the presence of Almighty God, and these witnesses, you do solemnly promise and swear, that you will never betray any of the *secrets* of this society, nor communicate them even to proper candidates, except *within* a lawful council of the order; that you will never permit any of the *secrets* of this society to be written, or in any other manner to be made eligible, except for the purpose of official instruction; that you will not vote, nor give your influence for any man for any office in the gift of the people, unless he be an AMERICAN BORN CITIZEN, in favor of Americans ruling America, NOR IF HE BE A ROMAN CATHOLIC; that you will in *all political matters*, so far as this order is concerned, *comply with the will of the majority*, though it may *conflict* with your personal preferences, so long as it does not conflict with the constitution of the United States of America, or that of the State in which you reside; that you will not, under any circumstances whatever, knowingly recommend an unworthy person for initiation, nor suffer it to be done if in your