

with the dearly cherished principles of our Government. With what surprise, in the presence of all these incidents of our day, will the grave American Statesman hear of the “unlawful combinations” in which he has been assembled to council with his native-born fellow citizens, to save from extinction and adulteration those glorious memories which cluster around the tombs of his ancestors, and that lofty privilege of American citizenship which had come to him, along with these memoirs, as his inheritance—at once the safe-guard and the pledge of his loyalty to his country!

The Committee despair, in the absence of information upon that point, of being able to find either letter or spirit in any Constitution or law of this Country which was designed to rebuke the purposes which have fallen under the executive censure.

In reference to that portion of the message which is intended to express even a sharper reproof, upon what the Governor has characterized as “intolerance and proscription” of religious opinions, the Committee again recur to the 8th Article which they have quoted above. That article announces resistance to the aggressive policy, and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church. The mode of this resistance is pointed out. It is in the simple, legal, authorized form in which an American citizen may resist whatever he thinks an abuse in the body politic—resistance by the constitutional weapon of the ballot-box and the equally constitutional exercise of the power of appointment. It is declared that this resistance shall be made, by refusing to advance to any political station, any man who holds, directly or indirectly, civil allegiance to any foreign power whatever, civil or ecclesiastical.

If there be proscription or intolerance in this refusal, upon whom does it operate? Upon the Catholic citizen of the United States who does *not* acknowledge civil allegiance to a foreign power? By no means. Nothing was further from the intention of the National Council. The Committee are glad of the opportunity themselves to testify, in contradiction to a current slander which is as widely circulated as the malice of enemies can carry it, that it was because the American Party acknowledged and respected the patriotism, fidelity and intelligence of the large body of native born American Catholics, that they thought it necessary to make the qualification contained in the article referred to. They believed, and the Committee repeat it as their own personal