

of the fifth section of this new platform, which is in these words :
 " No person should be selected for political station (whether of native or foreign birth) who recognizes any allegiance or obligation of any description to any foreign prince, potentate or power, or who refuses to recognize the federal and State constitutions, each within its sphere, as paramount to all other laws as rules of political action."

In this new article, this minority think no one can fail to perceive the proscription of the members of the Catholic religion, intended to be inculcated by the original 8th article, is extended and made more explicit and positive. The 8th article of the platform of June, 1855, proposes to elevate to office of any kind " those *only* who do not hold *civil allegiance*, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastic." This does not in terms proscribe that class of persons, though having and intended to have that effect, and impliedly charging them with owing civil allegiance to a foreign potentate, in the description of the means they prescribe for resisting " the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies" of their church, which that article also charges. Now, these charges being both unjust, and that which is implied against the members of that church having no foundation whatever except in the errors of ignorance and the false assertions of prejudice and bigotry, might have been gotten over in time, except for the force of the oaths and obligations taken in the lodges. &c., which, lying at the bottom, govern all the order and proscribe all Catholics, directly and independently of any charge.

But the words of this 8th article of the platform of June, 1855, taken of and by themselves, would have allowed of their escape, whenever it should appear, as is the fact, that they owe no *civil allegiance* to the Pope, or any other foreign prince, potentate or power, civil or ecclesiastic. But this 5th article of the new platform announces their law to be, that " no person shall be selected for political station (whether of *native* or foreign birth) who recognizes *any* allegiance or *obligation of any* DESCRIPTION, to any foreign potentate or power."

Now all the world knows that Catholics, that is, members of the Catholic church, do acknowledge the Bishop of Rome, who is styled the Pope, as their chief Bishop and head of their church, and also acknowledge, as residing in him, some degree of power and authority in expounding religious doctrines and directing matters of church discipline, not interfering with nor in any degree affecting their civil or political duties, rights or obligations. This individual, whoever he may be, the Bishop of Rome, or Pope, is by virtue of his office and of the *civil laws of that country*, also a temporal prince and sovereign of that part of Italy known as the States of the church, the city of Rome included, all of which make but a very insignificant principality!