

ance of this principle, and so great was the anxiety of the founders of the republic to protect themselves, and us, and those who are to come after us, from the horrors they well knew, and history teaches all have ever heretofore, and which will for ever hereafter ensue from political infringements of the rights of conscience; that when they came not long after to make amendments to the Constitution, the very *first* article of those amendments, and the *first* clause of that article says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

What, too, says the Bill of Rights of Maryland? "That no other test or qualification ought to be required, on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State, and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this Convention or the Legislature of this State, and a declaration of belief in the christian religion;" and even this has been since so modified, and the spirit and principles of perfect religious freedom so extended, as to dispense with "the declaration of belief in the christian religion," to place Jews and others who could not make that declaration on an equality with all other citizens! Yet we find by those forms of oaths *two tests* are to be applied as indispensable qualifications for all offices of all grades, in the gift of the people or in the gift or held at the will of any member of this order, namely, the candidate for office must be a *native born* citizen, and *must not be* of the *Roman Catholic religion*; the latter of which tests, it has been shown, is expressly prohibited in letters and words, and both of them are equally and positively forbidden by the spirit, general scope, purposes and principles of that Constitution which they profess so frequently their purpose to maintain and preserve.

It has been argued elsewhere, but it is presumed none here will be willing to peril his reputation for intelligence by asserting or attempting to maintain, that an agreement solemnly entered into by large numbers of people, associated and acting together, to apply by their votes at the ballot-box a test of qualification for office prohibited by the Constitution and laws, is no violation of that Constitutional provision. Where in this republic resides and abides the sovereign power? In the people. For whom and by whom was the Constitution made and adopted, and upon whom does it operate? The people. Whose sentiments, principles and purposes does it breathe, and speak, and enforce? Those of the American people. When and where, and by whom is sovereign power exercised in these United States? At their