

The next and third branch of the inquiry is, "Whether any and what society, or portion of the people of this State, or any of the United States, have introduced religious issues into the field of political agitation?" This inquiry has already been partially answered, in responding to those which immediately preceded it, but its importance still demands for it a separate consideration.

This minority have no evidence to show, neither have they heard, nor do they believe that any issues of the character indicated, had been to any extent deserving serious notice, introduced into the field of political agitation prior to the rise and organization of the Know-Nothing or American party as it is sometimes called. With that party, it is well known to be a leading principle to proscribe by exclusion from all political places or offices of all grades, all persons who are members of or connected with the Roman Catholic religion. They, the Know-Nothing party, profess to be a political party; have been shown in the previous part of this report, to have been organized with a view to political results, and to have certain peculiar and singular principles, practices and modes of procedure, by which they have endeavored and are endeavoring to obtain political dominion. Among those principles and practices, religious proscription—the purpose to exclude from all participation in the affairs of government, all members of a particular religious denomination, stands in the foreground. This has been so long and so generally admitted, even by themselves, that particular evidence of the fact can scarcely be necessary. But let a few passages be quoted from the forms of oaths before quoted at length, which should be regarded as authentic, because they have long since been published to the world, never authentically denied, and many offers even made to establish by legal and competent proof, their authenticity before the select Committee, which offers were declined.

One of the obligations in the oath taken in the first degree of that society is, "that you (the member) 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." In the second degree oath, besides a re-affirmance of the previous obligations taken, is the additional obligation assumed by the member, "when elected or appointed to any official station conferring on him the power to do so, to remove all foreigners, aliens or ROMAN CATHOLICS from office or place in your (his) gift." By the third degree oath these and all previous obligations are re-affirmed. Can any thing more be necessary to show the intro-