

whether civil or ecclesiastic, and who are Americans by birth, education and training." Resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country! A most pregnant clause indeed this—one that carries with it the asseveration that the Catholic Church in our country *is* aggressive in its policy, *is* corrupting in its tendencies. That is, the Catholic Church in this country *does* systematically, as a rule of policy, encroach or commit aggressions upon the rights, interests, property, power or privileges, civil, political or religious, of some body, politic, natural or corporate; and moreover *is* corrupting in its tendencies. This is the broad, positive, unqualified assertion. Who that understands the English language, can read the words quoted, and make any thing less of them? No one! How, when, where, upon what rights, interests, property, powers or privileges, this aggressive policy operates, or who or what is corrupted by these *corrupting* tendencies, is neither stated nor intimated! It was enough and best to make the charges broad and indefinite: bigotry would furnish believers and propagators. If made specific, the danger was imminent—it would be disproved,—vague and uncertain as it was, it could not be met by proof, and could only be denied in terms as general as those in which it was made—there would only then be denial against assertion. The accusers well knew their advantage in this, and that for their purposes, and with those for (not against) whom the charges were made, tried upon such proof, the charges, whether true or false, (their actual truth or falsehood was to them immaterial,) would stand for true "by confirmation strong as proofs from Holy Writ." And thus the Catholic Church, or rather that denomination of Christians, (they cared nothing about the Church,) stands condemned unheard by the fiat of this wise council. No other church or denomination of Christians is similarly treated—this particular class is singled out for proscription—others, all others, are afterwards discoursed about in general terms, patted on the head kindly, encouraged—none of them could be aggressive in their policy, or corrupt in tendency, that was not to be imagined. The memorial presented to the Senate of the United States a few years ago, signed by about three thousand professed ministers of religion, (none Catholics,) and bringing or attempting to bring church power to bear upon the action of that august assembly upon a momentous political question, was forgotten! It possibly may turn out, if this spirit is encouraged, and becomes dominant, that after