

the Catholics are crushed and gone, some others may find their turn come.

This was the first step taken; what next? Resistance to the anathematized has been proclaimed! How shall it be made effectual? "By the advancement" (says the next clause of this article) "to all political stations, executive, legislative, judicial or diplomatic, of those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastic." How does this make the resistance announced effectual? For aught that appears or is expressed *in words* here, the means proposed to effect a high duty, solemnly resolved upon and proclaimed by an august assembly of men, appealing to "that Almighty Being who rules over the universe," actuated by and inculcating "a profoundly intense American feeling and passionate attachment to our country, its history and its institutions," who were full of "admiration for" and laboring to restore "the purer days of our national existence" by "resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country," are wholly nugatory. The mode of resistance prescribed is to advance to office "those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastic." Who does hold civil allegiance to any foreign power, civil or ecclesiastic? Nobody. Then you meant nobody and nothing, and all this parade of words, platforms and articles, is a mere farrago of nonsense.

Some, if not of yourselves, gentlemen of the Convention, some of your best friends and warmest supporters, have said you meant by this clause nobody and nothing; and they have so argued in quarters and latitudes where such statements and arguments were necessary and useful to the great end, *the success of the party*.

Some believe them, though such a statement stultifies you and the party you lead. No matter, the scheme worked well for some time, and men of all sides were to some extent deceived and misled. The object has been partially accomplished. This mystification of words and ideas can deceive no longer. Let the truth come out. You were not blockheads,—far from it. Some of you, at least, were talented men and most adroit politicians. Something was meant. This negative-positive was intended to apply to some class of persons. What class was that? It is not said; but a particular Church was first denounced as aggressive in policy and corrupt in tendencies, and to be resisted. Attention was thus fixed upon that Church.

What constitutes a Church? A number of men holding certain religious doctrines, peculiar or otherwise. You know the doctrines of all churches are liable to be misrepresented by their enemies or rivals; this particular church had not escaped this common fate. The members of this church had been falsely