

**THE CORONATION OATH,
CONSIDERED, WITH
REFERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE REVOLUTION OF 1688**

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The Coronation Oath, Considered, with Reference to the Principles of the Revolution of 1688 by
Charles Thomas Lane

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CORONATION OATH,
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BY
CHARLES THOMAS LANE, Esq.
OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

"This Coronation Oath is the very touchstone and symbol of your government!"—*Mr. Hampden, junior, Debate on the Coronation Oath, 1688.*

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
J. HATCHARD AND SON, 187, PICCADILLY.
MDCCCXXVIII

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of this Treatise is encouraged by the flattering reception with which the former impression met from many eminent persons, to lay a Second Edition of it before the Public. The positions originally advanced, have been strengthened by the addition of many (it is hoped) interesting and important proofs; and the objections which have been brought forward, either expressly with reference to this work, or generally to such views of the question as are supported in it, have been deliberately and candidly considered. Above all things, the Author has been anxious to preserve to this work in its present shape, the character which (whatever might be its defects) he believes it acquired on its first appearance;—that of having been written not with the narrow view of supporting a political party, but in

order to elucidate a matter interesting in itself as a constitutional and historical question, and far more so, as involving considerations which "come home to all men's business and bosoms." For the rest, the writer is content to trust to the candour of his readers, and the soundness of that cause, for the support of which, the Coronation Oath was principally (as he conceives) established. As to the latter, he will not attempt to express his own sentiments, otherwise than in the glowing language of a distinguished living writer; language, respecting which the Author has the peculiar gratification of reflecting, that it was called forth by the perusal of the first edition of this work; and which, he is sure cannot fail to interest the reader, both on account of its intrinsic force, and of its having come from the pen of Dr. Southey. "The Protestant Cause is one which will always bear out its advocates, if they feel and understand its strength. It is a question on which we have with us the Law and the Gospel; right feelings and right reason; the best actions of our forefathers; and the best hopes of our posterity!"

CONTENTS.

SECTION		Page
I.	The Popular View of the Subject examined	1
II.	The Design of this Work	6
III.	The Intention of the Legislature in establishing the Oath is the Rule by which it is to be construed and performed	8
IV.	The Intention shown in the Public Declarations of the Revolution	14
V.	— The Acts of the Legislature	20
VI.	— The Nature of the Compact of the Revolution	35
VII.	— The Reason of the Establishment of the Oath	44
VIII.	— The Construction of the Oath	54
IX.	— The Proceedings in Parliament respecting it	66
X.	Objections to the Conclusion, <i>that the Oath is an obstacle to the Concession of the Roman Catholic Claims</i> , examined. <i>That it is inconsistent with the Legislative Power</i>	71
XI.	<i>That the Oath is not now binding in its original sense</i>	76
XII.	<i>That the King would be absolved from his Oath by the passing of a Bill for the Concession of the Claims</i>	85
XIII.	Mr. Butler's Authorities from History in support of the last Objection, examined	95
XIV.	Recapitulation and Conclusion	104

THE CORONATION OATH,

§c.

SECTION I.

THE POPULAR VIEW OF THE SUBJECT CONSIDERED.

THE notion vulgarly entertained with respect to the Coronation Oath is, that it is a form, composed in some remote age, used in compliance with ancient custom, and designed, in conjunction with various other ceremonies and observances, merely to heighten the solemnity of a Coronation. As a formal investiture of the Crown is not necessary to establish the title of the successor to it, no political importance it is imagined can attach to any part of a ceremony which may be altogether dispensed with. The Oath may indeed throw a religious character around the moral obligation to govern rightly, incidental to the taking of the kingly office; but the terms of it are thought to be no more

worthy of notice in the discussion of any constitutional question, than any of the particulars of the

“Pomp and feast—
— and antique pageantry”

of the splendid ceremonial of which it forms a part.

We see how little in matters that most vitally concern them, men in general examine either the grounds or the consequences of their opinions. We need not therefore be surprised at the existence of a notion which testifies much ignorance to be prevalent of what it becomes every man living under the British Constitution to know. The Roman Catholic question involves unhappily many points which more strongly force themselves upon the attention, and affect the passions of men; which more effectually touch the springs of human conduct than this. Hence it has not been sufficiently considered under what circumstances the present Coronation Oath originated; by whom it was framed; by what authority it was instituted; how deeply connected is its history with that of the liberties of England; with events the most interesting to us; the most remarkable that the page of history presents!

For the grounds of the notion we have adverted to, it would be idle indeed to inquire, but the consequences deducible from it are absolutely