

**POPERY UNMASKED, AND
HER SUPPORTERS EXPOSED, IN
SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE
POPIH MEETING DEC. 5 , 1828**

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Popery unmasked, and her supporters exposed, in speeches delivered at the popish meeting Dec. 5, 1828 by William Atkinson Popery

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WILLIAM ATKINSON POPERY

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S.H. 1829

POPERY UNMASKED,

AND HER

SUPPORTERS EXPOSED,

IN

SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE POPIISH MEETING,

HELD AT LEEDS, DECEMBER 5, 1828,

WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE

ROMAN CANON LAW,

THE

REV. DR. PHILLPOTTS' LETTER TO C. BUTLER,

&c. &c.

BY. WM. ATKINSON, LEEDS.

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1829.

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TO THE

PROTESTANTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

THE FOLLOWING

SPEECHES, EXTRACTS, AND OBSERVATIONS,

ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED BY

THEIR ZEALOUS FRIEND AND SERVANT,

W. ATKINSON.

THE SPEECH
OF
MR. ALDERMAN HALL.

[Mr. ALDERMAN HALL came forward, but it was some time before he was able to proceed, owing to the tumultuous applause from the Protestants, and the yells from the Popish party. At length he commenced speaking, but was almost inaudible, except to those by whom he was immediately surrounded, on account of the determined yell which was kept up by the Papists under the hustings.]

The worthy Alderman spoke as follows:—"Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—It is with feelings of extreme pain that I meet my fellow-townsmen on the present occasion, because, Sir, when I read over the names of the requisitors—when I look at the respectable gentlemen who are now arrayed in the support of the object of the meeting, I perceive that they are the same parties to whom we have been opposed on all former occasions, when the people have deemed it necessary to come forward in defence of their constitutional privileges. I am, therefore, compelled to draw the painful conclusion, that the removal of the great barrier, heretofore dividing his Majesty's Protestant subjects, has not had the desired effect. (*A loud laugh from Mr. Baines, who cried out "Ha, ha, ha!—That's a good one!"*) When this untimely interruption would allow him to proceed, Mr. Hall continued.—I say I cannot but express my regret, that the removal of that barrier has not had the effect of uniting them in closer bonds of

political union, and of engaging the whole Protestant community in the protection of their common interests. (*Loud laughter from Messrs. Baines, Scales, and Hutton, with cheering from the Protestant side, and disapprobation from the liberals.*) I beg not to be considered as including the whole body of Dissenters in an undistinguished mass, for I am glad to say there are not a few, but numbers of them, who, either agreeing with us in opinion, or from motives of gratitude for the distinguished favour which has placed them in a state of complete political equality, or from a conviction that their civil and religious liberties can only be secure by an adherence to certain fixed principles of government—all inspired by the same free spirit of Protestantism;—(*Cheers from the Protestants*)—there are numbers of them, I say, who refuse to be parties to the ill-judged measure adopted by the requisitors. (*Disapprobation from the liberals.*) I wish other gentlemen had been influenced by similar views.—(*Laughter from Mr. Baines.*) Let me tell you, then, when we consider the unnatural alliance which they have formed at this particular juncture, we cannot help inferring that there is still some uneasiness on their minds—some notion that our political constitution requires a further purge,—in short, that they do not join us heart and hand in support of the established order of government. (*Shouts from the Papists of "No, we never will, till we get our rights."*) Be this as it may, the expression of opinions on doubtful measures of policy, by an Address to the Throne, appears to me highly injudicious and indelicate. (*Laughter from Messrs. Baines, &c.*) I think the Hon. Member of Parliament in the chair will agree with me on this point. (*Cries from the hustings, of "No, no, he does not."*) Addresses to the King are only proper on subjects of congratulation, on which there is no difference of opinion.—(*Cheers from the Protestants.*)—Petition is the other mode of subjects approaching their Sovereign; but this is only to be resorted to on occasions of

high import, and it is necessary that the prayer be substantially set forth with the grounds on which it is preferred: but to make a professedly loyal address the vehicle of mere opinions of a part of his Majesty's subjects, to call forth a similar expression of the counter opinions of others which can be supported by irrefragable argument, and thus to distract the Royal mind, is to insult the Sovereign, without the hope of such address producing the intended effect.—*(Cheers and disapprobation.)*—Now, Sir, what has called for this very irregular mode of proceeding? I have heard no reason alleged but the provoking circumstance of a number of loyal Britons carrying their notions of loyalty to their King, and fidelity to the Constitution, a few degrees further than some people; and having learned that no treasures, and, above all, our constitutional blessings, can be protected by inactivity and security, have thought fit to form an association, which they call the “LEEDS BRUNSWICK CONSTITUTIONAL ASSOCIATION,”—*(Disapprobation and cheers)*—in maintenance of those blessings, which they think will be best effected, by opposing, by all constitutional means, the concession of further political power to the Roman Catholics. *(Tremendous cheers from the Protestants, which were loudly answered by the Popish party.)* Should the day arrive when the principles which actuate the members of this Association may be scouted—*(Cries of “They are scouted,” from the Papists)*—the glory of Britain will have passed away. For, what constitutes our greatness above other nations? It is not the exploits of our fleets and armies, though subjects of exultation to every true Briton, but it is the excellence of our institutions, civil and religious, which, by a nicely balanced form of government, secure to us, in an unparalleled degree, all the advantages which render society valuable. Such, then, is the Association which has frightened gentlemen from their propriety. *(Laughter from the Protestant part of the Austings.)* But was it needful to require the interposition of