HISTORICAL SKETCH

0 F

Dhananjayarao Gadgil Library

THE LATE

GIPE-PUNE-001982

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION

OF IRELAND.

By THOMAS WYSE, Esq. Jun.

" Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri." Horat. Epist. Lib.

IN TWO VOLS.

70L. I.

LONDON:

HENRY COLBURN, NEW BURLINGTON STREET. 1829.

V34:3(952), dL6. A829,1

PRINTED BY A. J. VALPY, RED LION COURT, PLEET STREET.

CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAP. I.

The treaty of Limerick-Government of William-Beneficent intention towards Ireland - Consequent prosperity -Jealousy of the Protestants-Barter of the agricultural and commercial rights and advantages of the country for the privilege of oppressing the Catholics-Origin of the penal code-Reign of Anne-Increased persecution-Laws preventing Catholics from acquiring property, educating their children, and freely exercising their religion-Consequent wretchedness of the country-Reign of George I .- Increased oppression of the Catholics-Evil effect on the Protestants-Extreme misery of all classes-Reign of George II. -Farther privations-Last remaining privilege, the elective franchise, withdrawn-Charter schools instituted "for the salvation of the poor Irish"-Registry bill-Expulsion of the clergy-Desolating famine, and epidemic-New and violent persecution-Total depression of the Catholics . page 11

CHAP. II.

First effort of the Catholics—Dr. Curry—Mr. O'Conor—Mr. Wyse—Their characters, friendship, and exertions to rouse their countrymen—Symptoms of relaxation in the penal code—Causes of this change—Anxiously seized—Appeals to the Catholic Aristocracy—To the Catholic Clergy—Fail—Causes of this failure—Appeal to the Catholic Merchants—Succeeds—First meetings—Partial attempt at a Dublin association, by Mr. Curry—Address of the Merchants—Graciously received—Plan of Mr. Wyse for the establishment of a general Association—Adopted—First general Association of the Catholics of Ireland . page 33

CHAP. III.

Accession of George III.—Address of the Catholics of Ireland—Separate address of the Catholic Aristocracy and Clergy—The Remonstrance of grievances—Dissensions and divisions of the Catholic body—Remonstrants and Antiremonstrants—Lord Trimleston—Lord Taaffe — Failure of the Remonstrance—Despondency of the Catholic—Causes thereof — Lord Halifax succeeded by Lord Townsend—Hopes of the Catholics—Efforts against the Quarterage, &c.—Establishment of a Catholic fund—Inertness of the first Committee or Association—Causes which produced it—Gradual dissolution—Renewal under Lord Kenmare—First concessions to the Catholics—Bill of 1776

CHAP. IV.

Review of the progress of the Catholics-Causes thereof

—Salutary effects of the bill of 1776—Gratitude of the Catholics—Renewed courage and exertions—Continuance of the Committee under Lord Kenmare—Character and politics of that nobleman—New divisions—New secession of the aristocracy—Inefficiency of the Committee—Its total dissolution—New plan suggested by Wolfe Tone—compared with that of Mr. Wyse—Establishment of the Second General Committee, or Association of 1790—Exertions of that body—Important concessions to the Catholics—Bill of 1773—Review of the causes which led to that event—Domestic—Foreign: amongst the Protestants—Amongst the Catholics—How far influenced by the General Committee, and by its leaders—Mr. Keogh—Dissolution of the Committee

CHAP. V.

Omissions and defects of the bill of 1793—Causes thereof—Gratitude of the Catholics—Servility of the Aristocracy—General apathy—Rebellion of 1798—Effects of the relaxations—Improved condition of the Catholics—Increasing anxiety for their total emancipation—Meetings to petition for that purpose in 1805—Draft of petition rejected—Oligarchical meetings in Marlborough Street—Mr. Ryan—Indignation of the country—Aggregate meeting in Stephen's Green—Attempts to reorganise the General Committee—Similar attempts in 1807, 1808—Aggregate meeting in William Street in 1809—Establishment of the Third General Committee on a similar plan to that of 1790—Elements of which it was composed—The Aristocracy—The Clergy—The Bar—The people, still of little influence—Character of the leaders—Lord Fingal—Lord Gormanstown—Lord

Ffrench — Lord Trimleston — Mr. Scully—Mr. Hussey — Mr. Clinch — Dr. Dromgoole — Dr. Troy, Catholic archbishop of Dublin—Surviving members—Proceedings of the Committee — Proclamation to disperse it under the Convention Act by Mr. Secretary Wellesley Pole—Arrest of the members—Trials—Dissolution of the Committee page 128

CHAP. VI.

Consequences of the proclamation, and dissolution of the Committee—New plan—Fourth General Committee, or Association, under the name of Board—Proceedings of the Catholics—Continuance of the Veto question—Divisions—General secession of the aristocracy—Injurious effects—Gradual languor and apathy—Insignificance of their proceedings—Final dissolution of the Board

CHAP. VII.

Universal inertness of the Catholic body—Causes thereof—Difficulty of sustaining public excitement—Arrival of the King—His farewell letter—Not acted on—Disappointment—Continued despondency of the Catholics—Means of rousing them—Defects of former plans—How to be remedied—Union of all parties—New plan projected by Mr. O'Connell, aided by Mr. Sheil—Difficulties to encounter: surmounted—Establishment of the Fifth General Committee, or late Catholic Association—Immediate advantages—Suppression of local outrage—Pacification of the country—Sympathy of all classes—Union of the Aristocracy, Clergy,

and People—Measures of the Association—Establishment on an extensive scale of a new Catholic fund—Rapid progress—Sanguine hopes—Relief bill of 1825—Preliminary and collateral measures—Relief bill and Freehold and Pension bill rejected—The Suppression Association bill, commonly called the Algerine bill, passed—The Association attempted to be suppressed page 188

CHAP. VIII.

Disappointment and indignation of the Catholics—Public meetings—The Algerine act evaded—The Association, with a slight change of name, continues its sittings—Government declines to interfere—Principle of this forbearance—Advantages resulting from the attempted suppression—Fourteen days' meeting—Provincial meetings—Census of the Catholic population—Important and extensive influence of these measures on the aristocracy, the clergy, and the people—General union and consolidation of Catholic opinion and Catholic strength—General Election of 1826—Election of Waterford—of Louth—of Cavan, &c.—Remarkable effect upon Catholics and Protestants—Simultaneous meetings—Petition to Parliament—Rejection of the petition

CHAP. IX.

Persecution of landlords—New Rent—Its effects and utility—Simultaneous Meetings—Continental sympathy—American sympathy—American addresses and associations, &c. alarming—American party in Ireland—Its principles—

CONTENTS.

Its conduct—Results—Canning administration—His policy
—His means—Wellington ministry—Marquess Wellesley
—Marquess of Anglesey page 293

CHAP. X.

Churchwardens—Liberal Clubs—Brunswick Clubs—How composed—State of parties—Clare Election—Mission of Mr. Lawless to the North—Reconciliation meetings, &c. in the South—The Army—Exclusive Dealing, &c. . 335