

**STAND! AN EARNEST  
ADDRESS TO THE FRIENDS OF  
OUR EMBODIED CHURCH  
IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND**

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Stand! An Earnest Address to the Friends of Our Embodied Church in England and Ireland by  
James Beresford

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**JAMES BERESFORD**

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AN EARNEST ADDRESS.



# S T A N D !

## AN EARNEST ADDRESS

TO THE

FRIENDS OF OUR EMBODIED

### CHURCH IN ENGLAND

AND

### IRELAND,

AT THE

PRESENT CRISIS OF ITS FATE.

BY THE REV. JAMES BERESFORD, A.M.

RECTOR OF RISWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE, LATE FELLOW OF MERTON COLLEGE,  
OXFORD.

*[Written in April, 1849, on the subject of the "Roman Catholic Relief Bill," at that time pending. Now first printed. For the cause of the delay, and for the increased urgency of the reasons which have induced the author to publish his Address at the present moment,—see the Preface.]*

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AND F. COMBE, LEICESTER

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## P R E F A C E.

*May, 1835.*

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In the present and prospective state of the incorporated Church of England and Ireland, but little requires to be said, by way of introduction to the article now submitted to public notice. The events which have already befallen our Protestant brethren in the sister island, and the ominous rapidity with which the *Roman Catholic* churches and congregations are daily extending themselves in *England*, since the introduction of the papists into our parliament, are sufficiently notorious. So completely may those events be said to have rivetted the attention of all sound Protestants—so deeply have they been investigated, and so keenly criticised, through every public channel of communication, by far more capacious minds than that of the present writer, that he feels himself called upon to offer a few words, explanatory of the course upon which he now ventures, on giving publicity to this Address. He alludes to the presumption with

which he may seem to be fairly chargeable, in obtruding his particular views of the question in hand, after his own free confession, above made, that that question has been exhausted by his abler concurrents in the same field of inquiry.\*

His proposed explanation is of a twofold nature. In the first place, while the memorable debates on the Catholic Relief Bill, in 1829, were yet hastily proceeding, it suddenly occurred to him that, late as it then was, he might possibly be still in time to present the question in an effective point of view, by means of a warning anticipation, under numerous distinct heads, or items, of the long series of mis-

\* On the point before us, another, and, to the author, a far more painful charge against him, may too probably be made; viz. that the enactment of the Roman Catholic Relief Bill can never be recalled to mind, in disconnexion with the names (though he has never mentioned them) of its principal managers,—those honoured and beloved Names, whose very sound has, *now*, a magical power over every true British heart. Yet, here let it be candidly considered, whether the revived memory of a circumstance so universally known, ought, on the sole ground of personal delicacy, to have compelled the entire suppression of his opinions on a great national measure, involving either the safety, or the sudden downfall, of our venerated Church—a measure which no true Protestant could have touched at all, without constant reference to, and even unqualified censure of, that law, from which every one more clearly sees, from hour to hour, that our danger has directly arisen.

conceptions which adhered to the measure in view, — and, above all, of the certain evils, both spiritual and physical, which might be expected to accumulate upon its eventual adoption.

As it happened that the foregoing method of treating the subject had not been previously followed by others, the present writer felt it wholly impossible, with the feelings that possessed him, to remain silent any longer. In the fear of losing his labour, he wrote as quickly as was at all consistent with the care and circumspection which the case so pressingly demanded. The result, however, was, that he was distanced, towards the close, by a hasty settlement of the question.

Since the above period, six years have past. Notwithstanding his former disappointment, however, the author has at length determined (with whatever degree of discretion) that the smothered offspring of his zeal, in this highest and holiest of all causes, shall, even now, be restored to life and motion. In thus resolving, he has been actuated by no other impulse, or argument, (beyond the motive already assigned,) except the following—viz. that those who preceded him on the same subject, had confined their attention to *past*, or *passing*, changes,—whereas *his* performance, at the now distant