

BOSTON, APRIL 25, 1874.

THE PILOT

GIVE Catholics their full rights; ask nothing of them you would not willingly concede if you were in their place. — *Journal of Commerce*, a leading non-Catholic daily paper of New York.

The A. O. H. Condemned for Secrecy.

At High Mass on Sunday, the 19th inst., the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hendricken, Bishop of Providence, stated that inquiries having been made to him as to whether a Catholic could belong to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, he wished to publicly announce that Catholics cannot without violating the rules of the Church, belong to the Order, such as exists in Ireland, branches of which are established in this country, on account of its secret character. The Church has condemned all secret associations, and cannot consistently countenance or tolerate this society, known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The *Providence Journal* says: "This announcement of the Bishop has caused a great sensation in the Catholic community, the order thus virtually condemned being here very widespread and powerful. It has been privately hinted, and even by some openly asserted, for some time past, that the Bishop was opposed to the existence of this Order, with its secret regulations, but it was confidently stated by many members that while he could not conspicuously recognize the Order, yet he would not go so far as to publicly speak against it, because of its Irish and Catholic nature. This feeling became so generally prevalent that some persons, disposed to join the Order, resolved to get the Bishop's opinion of it before taking this step, and the statement made at the Cathedral is regarded as an authoritative and final answer to these inquiries, and settles the standing of the Order in relation to the Church. There are no less than four teen Divisions of the Order in Rhode Island, several of these being located in Providence, and the decision of the Bishop, it is believed, will have the ultimate effect of disbanding them or causing the removal of the injunction of secrecy imposed upon the members. The Order is national and benevolent in its character, and extends throughout the country."