

# The Colonial Protestant;

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## PROTESTANT UNION.

A PRIZE ESSAY.

[About twelve months ago the sum of one hundred dollars was offered by some friends in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the best Essay on Protestant Union. Two of the Essays (nine were sent), have been printed in the *Halifax Guardian*. The successful one, which was first published, contains a long and able discussion of the questions at issue between Protestants and Roman Catholics. The second is shorter, and more practical in its tendency. We republish it with pleasure, and commend it to the serious attention of our readers.—  
EDITORS.]

The present state of the religious world is in many respects adapted to excite feelings of deep sorrow and alarm. Our mercies, it is true, are great and manifold; our privileges are unimpaired; our efforts are unrestricted. We may serve God as we please, without hindrance or molestation. We possess abundant facilities for the communication of truth. The success of Protestant Missions in every part of the world, calls forth gratitude and inspires hope. The advantages of the present age, in a

literary point of view, are peculiar, both as regards general knowledge and biblical inquiry. More has been done for the distribution of the Scripture, within the last fifty years, than in any period of similar length, since the days of the Apostles. Other circumstances might be mentioned, but this enumeration will suffice to show that we have abundant cause for thankfulness. Protestantism has largely enjoyed the favour of the Lord.

But it cannot be denied that a time of danger and difficulty has come. In the sixteenth century, the progress of the Reformation was checked, and in some places the Reformation itself was destroyed, by the establishment of the Order of the Jesuits. The reaction in favour of Popery, to which the efforts of that Order mainly contributed, was extensive and energetic. Adroitly yielding to the demands of the age, the priesthood assumed a more becoming deportment, and the scenes of public scandal, by which the affections of the people had been to a great degree estranged from the Papal interest, gradually disappeared from view. An unwonted activity sprung up.