

deep, were heard in every chapel-yard. A Priest of the diocese, writing of that time, remarks:—

The particular events which brought up this discussion are related in the Preface to the Authenticated Report, published by Coyne (Catholic) and Curry, (Protestant) booksellers of Dublin, soon after its conclusion. This introduction, so characteristic of the self-restraint imposed by the parties on themselves, deserves to be given unabridged. It reads thus:

“The causes which have given rise to any publication, may in general be supposed to claim an interest in the public attention, commensurate, at least, to that which the work itself is calculated to produce. But in a more especial manner, those circumstances will surely not be thought unworthy of record, which have suddenly drawn forth, from the quiet walk of professional duty, so many Ministers of the long severed churches of Rome and of Ireland, which have led persons, hitherto of retired habits, to stand forward in the public eye and ear, to contend on those great elements of faith and hope, on which they differ. In addition, however, to the desire of gratifying a natural curiosity respecting the origin of the following discussion, the publishers are anxious to give some statement on the subject, because the incidents connected with its commencement have impressed it with a character, and marked the conduct of it with peculiarities which, without this previous knowledge, it were difficult to account for. The suddenness and unpreparedness with which the parties were drawn into this collision, have evidently deprived the discussion of that order, symmetry and proportion in the disposition of the subjects, which a little pre-arrangement could so easily have given to it. At the same time, this very defect of previous order and limitation of subjects may have been the means of presenting a more varied and interesting field of inquiry, and thus compensating the want of regularity by unfolding a more free and excursive view of the whole controversy.

“The circumstances in which the discussion originated were simply these. A public meeting having been called in the city of London-