

INTRODUCTION.

THE Pamphlet of the "Awful Disclosures" is trifling in bulk, but charged with undisguised malignity and clumsy misrepresentations. The object of it is no less than to inflict irretrievable injury on the reputation and efficiency of the ministers of the Roman Catholic faith in Lower Canada, and on the hitherto unblemished fame of the Conventual institutions of that province. Let it be admitted that such a work might be undertaken with a conscientious persuasion of its justice and necessity, the public would still look for and expect to find strong and unquestionable evidence in justification of the act of the accusers. If that evidence were really produced, it would indeed be difficult to over-estimate the importance of the question between Maria Monk and her supporters on the one hand, and the Catholic clergy and religious establishments of Lower Canada on the other. If inquiry should substantiate and prove the charges against these latter, it would then become a question whether piety, charity, humility, or Christian virtue, had any real abiding place upon earth. For it would follow, that men visibly engaged through a long course