

POETRY.

Original.

ON SAINT PETER, THE APOSTLE.—JUNE 29TH.

How Jesus triumphs in his Saints
O'er worldly grandeur vain ;
That sudden shifts, before the wind,
As fleets the vap'ry train !

While in their monumental dust
Neglected Monarchs lie ;
Whose name, that once so filled the earth,
Scarce lives in History :

Far as the Church the Faith has spread,
This day the nations raise
Their common voice, in chorus sweet,
To sound her Peter's praise.

Next to himself, Religion's chief,
Mark how the Saviour chose
A poor, illiterate fisherman,
To face her proudest foes.

Earth's mighty mistress for her God's.
Rome, trembling at his word,
Against truth's champion bids her chiefs
Unsheath their conquering sword.

In vain her chiefs their sword unsheath
In vain her learned inveigh :
Against his artless eloquence
Their utmost skill display.

Low at his feet her bloodless sword
Rome now submissive lays :
And to her conqueror's trophy adds
Her learning's boasted bays.

While round are eyed, in heaps obscene,
Her crumbling idols, trow'd ;
High o'er her temples, bright in gold,
Messiah's Cross is view'd.

Where Satan in his fiercest might
Maintain'd his murd'rous sway ;
Triumphant reigns the Prince of Peace,
Whom nations all obey

States rise and fall : Time's ample scythe
Still mows our feeble race :
The tumult, Peter, yet unmov'd,
Views from his holy place.

The voice of watchful shepherd there
On Zion's hill reclin'd,
Each passing generation hears,
Warning his charge assign'd.

And may we still attentive hear,
And, hearing, still obey
Our Shepherd's voice : from Christ's own fold
Sure never thus to stray !

Whom Reason proud aloud directs,
In vain conjecture lost,
Before each whinsey's veering wind
In giddy round are toss'd.

Unerring sure his word must be
Whose Faith, the Saviour said,
Should never fail for him, alone
When to his sire he pray'd.

His Brethren whom he bade confirm ;
Bade, ere he sought his throne,
His lambs and sheep : his flock to feed ;
While Time his course should run.

The rock he's still'd, on whose firm base
Truth's sacred fabric rose :
To him the keys of heav'n are lent,
With pow'r to open or close.

By Satan sifted once, like wheat,
He, self-confiding, fell.
Now, by his Lord's right hand upheld,
He braves the pow'r of hell.

Still treads secure the surging deep ;
Nor heeds the billows' roar,
Till through the tempest, safe at last,
He reach the eternal shore.

His praises then, with ceaseless voice,
Let Creatures all resound :
Whose wisdom deigns to choose the weak,
The mighty to confound

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
One God, in Persons Three,
Let Creatures join to pour their praise
Through all Eternity !

Original.

ON THINGS BLESSED, OR CONSECRATED.

THE custom which the Catholic Church has of blessing, or consecrating certain things, or places, and of thus separating them from profane, and dedicating them to sacred purposes, is evidently grounded on scripture authority. Holy water, for instance, was used in the Jewish Church, (*Numb. v. 17.*) and the mystical meaning of it is alluded to by the royal prophet, when he says, *Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed ; thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whither than snow.* Psalm i. 9. The ark, the ephod, the priestly ornaments, and all the sacred utensils of the tabernacle, are instances of the same kind. Jacob consecrated the place where he had seen the vision in his sleep. Moses was ordered by the Lord, when he appeared to him in the burning bush, to put the shoes from off his feet, because the place, on which he stood, was holy ground. A thousand such instances might be pointed out in holy writ, of a practice similar to that of Catholics, which the greatest known favorites of God on earth would not have followed, had there been any thing improper or superstitious in it. *Every thing says St. Timothy, is sanctified by the word of God, and by prayer.* Ch. iv. 5. There are, besides, in scripture many instances of persons severely punished by Almighty God, for profaning such holy and consecrated things. He who but touched the ark, to prevent its being overturned, not being one of the Levites, to whose charge it had been exclusively committed ; was struck dead upon the spot for his temerity. 2. kings. 6. 9. One of the Jewish monarchs, for seizing the censer, and presuming to do the office of the high-priest, was smitten on the spot with the leprosy, and therefore cast forth, according to the law, from the temple, as one polluted and profane. King Balthazar, for profaning at his banquet the sacred vases which he had taken from the temple of Jerusalem, saw traced by a hand upon the wall the mystical writing which indicated his approaching downfall and destruction, &c. &c.

ON IDOLATRY AND SUPERSTITION.

Blaspheming those things which they know not.
2 Peter ii 12.

MANY Protestants, observing the outward demonstrations of respect shown by Catholics to the pictures and images of Jesus Christ and his saints, &c. and which in some countries popular extravagance may have carried to a ridiculous length ; are simple enough, especially on account of such local peculiarities, to imagine that Roman Catholics are downright idolaters ; worshipping, like the heathens of old, the works of their own hands ; and adoring the creature instead of the Creator. But before passing so severe a judgment on the greatest, most ancient, and illustrious body of Christians in the universe, it were but fair, it were even necessary to examine the intentions of those, whom they

suspect as guilty of such an abomination ; and to investigate their real notions upon the score. Did they but take the trouble to do this, they would find that there is not one Catholic to be found who ever imagined for a moment that the paintings or statues, which he honours, could themselves either see, hear, or help him ; or who ever thought of reverencing them for their own sakes, and not as we ourselves would those of beloved Sovereigns, and heroes of the Great and Good, merely for the sake of the originals. Catholics only shew in this manner what veneration they think due, and would pay to Jesus Christ and his Saints, were they really present before them, as their likenesses are.—This is not therefore what can be termed Idolatry, which is either the worship of the thing itself, or through it, of some false and chimerical Divinity. An Idol, according to St. Paul, is the figure of that which is not, or which is not true. But the representations made use of by Catholics are not at all of this kind. Indeed the triumph of Jesus Christ over idolatry has been so complete, that this last is found to exist in no place, where his religion has been once properly established. Superstition, however, does exist more or less in all countries, particularly in our own : and weak of itself and unsupported by Reason, it fastens, like the ivy, in its creeping progress on every thing that can bear it up from the ground. It clings above all to the exterior of religion, and draws from thence its nutritive sap, till it has dried up the tree, on which it has thrived, and covered it with a foliage not its own. In the long space of eighteen hundred years, since the sacred vine has been planted in certain Catholic countries, it is not very surprising to find it much encumbered with weeds and rubbish ; or that its shoots should run wild, and bear more foliage than fruit, when, in the many generations it has outlived, there were often but unskilful or negligent husbandmen to tend it. It is only a miracle that it is not quite smothered and dead. Yet still it lives in all its primitive vigour, and needs only the skilfully pruning and clearing hand.

AVIS A NOS CHERS FRERES DU BAS CANADA.

Il est a esperer que tout bon Catholic entendant ou n'entendant pas la langue anglaise, pretera son support au seul journal Catholique anglois, qui ait jamais paru dans ces provinces surtout en sachant qu'il est public avec l'approbation, et sous les auspices des Eveques et du clerge du pays. Le prix d'ailleurs, en est si modique n'etant que quatorze shillings par an. la poste incluse, pour une Feuille hebdomadaire ; qu'il y a bien peu de personnes qui ne puissent contribuer cette miete a l'elucidation et defense de notre Sainte Religion, assaillie de toutes parts, et calomniee par ses Ennemis dans une langue, qu'il est indispensablement necessaire d'adopter, pour refuter sur pied egal leurs erreurs. On s'attend que la moitie de l'abonnement annuel, sera paye d'avance, et envoye par chacun, avec son adresse, franc de post, a T. Dalton, U.C.

The Catholic

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