

appear; it follows then, that, all controversy being permitted, falshood will appear the more false, and truth the more true; which must needs conduce much, not only to the confounding of Popery, but to the general confirmation of unimplicit truth.

A vicious course of life disposes men to fall into Popery.

The last means to avoid Popery, is to amend our lives. It is a general complaint that this Nation, of late years, is grown more numerous and excessively vicious than heretofore; pride, luxury, drunkenness, whoredom, cursing, swearing, bold and open atheism, every-where abounding: where these grow, no wonder if Popery also grow a-pace. There is no man so wicked, but sometimes his conscience will wring him with thoughts of another world, and the peril of his soul; the trouble and melancholy which he conceives of true repentance and amendment he endures not, but inclines rather to some carnal superstition, which may pacify and lull his conscience with some more pleasing doctrine. None more ready and officious to offer herself than the Romish, and opens wide her office, with all her faculties, to receive him; easy confession, easy absolution, pardons, indulgences, masses for him both quick and dead, Agnus Dei's, reliques, and the like: and he, instead of "working-out his salvation with fear and trembling," strait thinks in his heart (like another kind of fool than he in the psalms) to bribe God as a corrupt Judge; and by his proctor, some priest, or fryer, to buy-out his peace with money, which he cannot with his repentance. For God, when men sin outragiously, and will not be admonished, gives-over chastizing them, perhaps, by pestilence, fire, sword, or famine, which may all turn to their good, and takes-up his severest punishments, hardness, besottedness, of heart, and idolatry, to their final perdition. Idolatry brought the Heathen to heinous

N. B.

N. B.

N. B.

trans-