

THE
Knox College Monthly

AND
PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

VOL. VI.

JUNE, 1887.

No. 2.

Contributed.

CARDINAL NEWMAN.

TRUTH in the abstract is one thing, in the concrete quite another. Home Rule in the shape of Parliamentary resolutions, legislators gather around as bees around flowers. When, however, it takes such concrete form as O'Brien visits they flee from it as if it were dynamite. Principles in the concrete put sincerity in relation to them to the test, and, at the same time, furnish the best evidence of their own character and tendency. History and doctrine studied in biographic connections are most effectively quickening and instructive. With this conviction upon the mind I think a short study of Cardinal Newman's changes in his religious opinions may not be without benefit to the readers of THE MONTHLY in more respects than one.

These changes show that the contact of error with the mind, unless guarded against, is like the letting in of water. One knows not to what volume error may grow, nor to what disastrous issues it may carry its victim. These changes further demonstrate that great weaknesses may be combined with great excellencies to renders the latter all the more effective, through