

“ Catholic doctrine ; and the invectives against  
 “ the Council of Constance, as if it had put  
 “ *John Huss*, and *Jerome* of Prague to death  
 “ *for heresy*, are idle tales.” One is really at a  
 loss which most to admire, the representations  
 in point of doctrine or of history. Is there any  
 fact better known or attested, than that the  
 Romish Church in all ages, when it had the  
 power, has never ceased to persecute heretics ?  
 Is mankind in its dotage, and has lost all me-  
 mory of past events, that such fictions are to  
 be imposed upon it ? Is the inquisition totally  
 unknown which was instituted whenever the  
 Church had influence enough, and which the  
 Pope endeavoured to establish in every country  
 in Europe, so late as the sixteenth century, for  
 the very purpose of imprisoning, torturing, and  
 destroying heretics ? Have we so soon forgot  
*Cranmer*, *Ridley*, and *Latimer*, and those other  
 Protestant martyrs who were the victims of  
 Popery in the short reign of *Queen Mary* ?

The most slender acquaintance with history  
 is sufficient to confute those misrepresentations  
 respecting *John Huss*, the celebrated champion  
 of Protestantism. Nor is it difficult to see the  
 reasons for this vehemence against him. That  
*Huss* declaimed, as many other eminent men  
 of that time did, against the vices of the Ro-  
 mish Clergy, and endeavoured to withdraw  
 his country from blind submission to the Papal  
 power, that he met with great opposition from  
 the Romish ecclesiastics, and that great distur-  
 bances were occasioned by their violence, is  
 certain