



A Flag of Truce :
or,
Must We Fight for ever.

Catholic and Protestant Emancipation.



I shall briefly state, that I remained in the palace ten days, in the most perfect seclusion. Every morning the good bishop dedicated two or three hours to my instruction and improvement; he put into my hands one or two books at a time, with marks in them, indicating the pages which I ought to consult.

The episode ends with an account of Mr. Mildmay's receiving « the Sacrament, » *i. e.*, not absolution, but the Lord's Supper, in the bishop's private room, at the conclusion of which rite, he says :

« I felt that I had faith, that I was a new man — that my sins were forgiven : and dropping my head on the side of the table, I remained some minutes in grateful and fervent prayer. »

Here was fresh food for musing, for the passage had pleased me much, and all the more by its contrast with the Minorcan picture. What has Captain Marryat here related or imagined? Not being thrown into his scoffing mood by the thought of Catholic priests, he has drawn a simple and touching picture of « auricular confession. » as Protestants love to brand it, *i. e.*, of private and secret confession made by a penitent sinner to his spiritual father, who listens to it, not from friendship, but from a sense of duty, as God's minister to a diseased soul. The confession is not vague or general, but « honest and candid, » « without reserve, » and « without