

THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

VOL. I.

No. 9.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

HALIFAX, MARCH 8, 1845.

CALENDAR.

- MARCH 9.—Passion Sunday—Vespers of the same day.
- ... 10.—Monday—The Forty Martyrs.
- ... 11.—Tuesday—St. Praxedes, Abbot.
- ... 12.—Wednesday—St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Confessor, and Doctor.
- ... 13.—Thursday—St. Zosimus, Pope and Confessor.
- ... 14.—Friday—Feast of the Seven Doctors of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- ... 15.—Saturday—St. Zacharias, Pope and Confessor.

General Intelligence.

(*Universal Register.*)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.

“Among the many great saints who have illustrated the Church in these latter ages, there is none whose virtues excite greater or more universal admiration than St. Francis Xavier. In his conversion, and subsequent holiness of life, the power of Divine grace is conspicuously displayed; and in his untiring zeal, and the extraordinary success that crowned his missionary labours, we have, perhaps, the most striking exemplification of the efficacy of the divine word that is to be found after the times of the Apostles. Protestants no less than Catholics have borne testimony to this fact. In his lives of eminent Roman Catholic Missionaries, Carne says, that Xavier was ‘the greatest missionary of his age;’ and the late Sir James Mackintosh, notwithstanding his strong anti-Catholic prejudices, pays a beautiful tribute to his heroic zeal. ‘Francis Xavier,’ says this distinguished writer, ‘was a very extraordinary man. Persuasion and commanding eloquence, an ascendancy over the minds of men, unconquerable patience in suffering, intrepid courage amid the most dreadful dangers, and a life devoted to a

purely disinterested purpose, form a combination which varies its exterior and its direction, according to the opinions and manners of various ages and nations. In one it produces a Xavier; in another a Howard; he (Xavier) taught to slaves the moral dignity of their nature; he preached humility to tyrants and benevolence to savages. He must have told to the outcast Hindoo, that he was, in the grandest point of view, the equal of his Rajah, and the ferocious Malay, that his enemy was his brother. He therefore diffused the fruits of the best philosophy, and laboured to improve and ennoble nature.’ The Rev. Mr. Palmer, of Oxford College, in his compendium of Church history lately published, says that the ‘labours of Xavier are, perhaps, unequalled since the days of the Apostles.’

“If Xavier was selected by God, as the event sufficiently shows, to be, like St. Paul, a vessel of election to carry his name before kings and peoples, we cannot be surprised at finding in him the same signs of an apostleship, as established the divine mission of the great apostle of the Gentiles. Hence, far from being astonished at the super-natural events, which are occasionally narrated in the following pages, the judicious reader will be convinced, that such miraculous powers as the apostles possessed, were no less necessary for the success of Xavier’s preaching, than in the first propagation of the Christian religion. Had not Xavier to announce Christ crucified to an idolatrous, and, very frequently, a barbarous people? If miracles were required for the success of the gospel, in the first century, among the civilized nations of the Roman empire, surely they were no less necessary in the sixteenth century, when