

engaged in it did so from the conscientious motive of promoting protestantism," the great Edmund Burke declared, (as Lord John Russell observed, some months since, in his reply to the memorial on behalf of the Dorchester labourers) "those who were the originators were more culpable than those who were seduced to follow their example for the sake of plunder." We therefore hope that you, my Protestant friends, will despise the efforts of such fanatics, and whilst you hold, from conscientious motives, your own creed, will allow us to enjoy in peace, the blessings of our religion and the advantages of our *religious* communities. As for those who have aided in propagating the slanders of Rebecca Reed and Maria Monk, we call their attention to the following observations of an eminent divine, on the baneful consequences of such publications :—

"The authors and promulgators of immoral or slanderous works, may, it is true, repent of their crime, but can never recal the mischief, as it branches out into endless ramifications, and goes down to the latest posterity. The only reparation they can make, is for the future to do all the good they can, in order to atone, in some measure, for the evil effects of their writings."

But whilst there are prejudiced and unprincipled persons fabricating lying stories, for the purpose of reviling our religion, and blackening the character of our religious institutions, it is very gratifying to our feelings to find so many of our unprejudiced and enlightened Protestant brethren coming forward promptly and generously to vindicate us, and rescue the character of the innocent of our community, when attacked by those uncharitable calumniators, who think it no crime to rob their fellow-creature of his good fame; like the murderers of their Lord and Saviour, who took away his life because they considered him as an obstacle to their designs, and an exposé of their hypocrisies.

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