

THE
WITNESS OF TRUTH.

Vol. V.

OSHAWA, SEPT., 1850.

No. 2.

A NEW PAPER.

"TO OUR CATHOLIC FELLOW-CITIZENS OF CANADA.

It has often been the subject of wondering remark, to many of sincere regret, that, whilst our Protestant fellow-citizens of almost every denomination, have each their avowed organ, through which they can express their wants and feelings, and advocate each their own peculiar views of what they consider truth, the Catholics alone, that is that numerous portion of the community, who professing the Catholic faith, speak the English language, should not possess throughout the entire Province, a single publication, in the columns of which they can give utterance to their indignant protest, against the illiberal, and often libellous charges with which they stand accused. That, whilst every recurring week brings back the same stereotyped calumnies, and blasphemous mockery; of all that as Catholics we love; of all that as members of Christ's Church, we esteem most sacred, not one voice should be raised in defence of the teaching of our holy religion.

As men, as citizens, we are insulted by the meditated invasion upon the sacred rights of property, by the cry raised against our religious establishments, and the property of the Clergy;—by the cry raised for their destruction; not because it is even pretended that the funds created by the farseeing piety of former generations have been wasted, are misapplied; not because our religious establishments have been found by experience impotent for good, or productive of evil, but because of their very efficacy, but because of the living testimony that they bear to the unity of the true Church of Christ.

And, if ever mindful of the precepts of our Divine Master, "not to render railing for railing;" we have long borne all this in silence; could we hope, by patience, and calm endurance, to disarm, or weary out the malice of our adversaries, we yet could bear. For we have no wish to enter upon a religious newspaper controversy, far less do we desire to heap abuse upon our separated brethren, because of the difference of our respective creeds, or to cast back upon them some portion of the dirt, with which they have so long bespattered us. But even patience may be taxed beyond the power of endurance; a longer silence be mistaken for inability to reply, and a continued refusal to plead to the indictment, might seem to authorise the finding of a verdict of guilty against us. And therefore, with the blessing of God, we will reply; not to offend others, but to defend ourselves.

We will endeavour to shew, that we are not necessarily fools, because we are Catholics; that humble faith is no more the fruit of igno-