

THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

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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, JUNE 26, 1847.

CALENDAR.

- JUNE 27—Sunday—V after Pentecost, St. William, Abbot.
28—Monday—St. Leo II, P. C.
29—Tuesday—St. Peter and St. Paul.
30—Wednesday—Commemoration of St. Paul.
JULY 1—Thursday—Octave Day of St. John the Baptist.
2—Friday—Visitation of B. V. M.
3—Saturday—St. Paul, I, P. C.

FUNERAL OBSEQUIES AND MOURNING FOR THE LIBERATOR OF IRELAND.

The Irishmen of Halifax have been nobly consistent in their attachment to the Father of his country. They loved him in life; they mourn and honour him in death. Never were shed more bitter tears than were poured forth over O'Connell's bier in Halifax. In no part even of the Green Isle itself could deeper sorrow be manifested. When the prayers of the faithful were requested on Sunday last at the various Masses, for the repose of his soul, deep drawn sighs, scalding tears and afflicted countenances proclaimed the intensity of public feeling. After the Bishop's Mass in the Cathedral, his Lordship pronounced an eulogium on O'Connell which lasted nearly an hour and a half.—He minutely described the degraded and miserable condition of Ireland when this mighty man was born,—traced him step by step in his brilliant career from his earliest struggles to his latest triumphs—reviewed his character as a benefactor not only to his own beloved country, but to the whole Empire and to the whole world—dwelt at considerable length on the varied brilliancy of those splendid talents with which God endowed him, on his universal philanthropy, his enlightened liberality, his enlarged love of human kind, his unchangeable goodness of heart, his forgiving disposition, his noble deeds of kindness to his personal enemies, his many social qualities, and rare domestic virtues. The chief part of the discourse however was confined to the delineation of this great man's character, as a Catholic and a devoted member of Christ's Church. O'Connell's long life of

martyrdom for the Catholic Faith, his tender piety, his devout, frequent, and regular participation of the Sacraments in the midst of almost superhuman labours, his extensive acquaintance with the dogmatical and moral doctrines, as well as ritual observances of the "Pillar and Ground of Truth" his astonishing controversial powers, the taunts, and jeers and sarcasms which he endured so long and so nobly from the enemies of the Cross of Christ, his triumphant expositions and defences of the Catholic Religion within and without the walls of Parliament, his edifying sentiments and prayers throughout his last illness—these and many other points of his wonderful career were successively alluded to. Fast and frequent flowed the tears of the audience, and fervent were the prayers that were offered up for the everlasting rest of Ireland's greatest champion. At the High Mass the Vicar General also made the most affecting allusions to the character of the Illustrious deceased, until his feelings seemed to have become too big for utterance. We never knew the magical influence of O'Connell until now, the strong and lasting hold which he has taken in the very depths of the Irish heart.—Each individual bewailed his loss as if he had been bereaved of an affectionate parent. O'Connell was worthy of Ireland, and certainly Irishmen are proving that they were worthy of him. Wednesday was appointed by the Bishop for the solemn obsequies, and on Monday Evening Mason Hall was crowded with the true hearted countrymen of O'Connell, who met to prepare for the mournful occasion, to record their undying attachment and veneration for their Glorious Chieftan, and to offer the tribute of condolence to his afflicted family. It was resolved that they should assemble at an early hour on Wednesday, and walk in procession to assist at the Office and High Mass in the Cathedral—also that all the shops should be closed on that day and every mark of public sorrow exhibited. A suitable address was voted to the family of the Liberator, and it was determined that every Irishman in Halifax should immediately go into mourning.

Wednesday last the 23rd inst., was kept as a Holyday of National sorrow, chastened by religious feeling. The Great Bell of St Mary's tolled its mournful peal throughout the morning.