

a class not wholly unrepresented in the Protestant pulpits of this city;—men whose natural disposition and whose extensive reading alike protect them from the necessity of having recourse to such methods of controversy as the dissemination of the traditions we have been considering—men who, when they have occasion to allude to the Catholic Church, do so in language befitting her great place in the world's history. Excluding these persons then, the great majority fall into three classes.

(1) Those who take no interest whatever either in these traditions, or in their refutation. (2) Persons who are so fortified by their invincible prejudice that the clearest and most convincing argument serves only to irritate and annoy; (3) and lastly those, and I would fain believe their number is not inconsiderable, who are actuated by an honest desire to know the truth, and are disposed to deal fairly, even by the Catholic religion. To these persons I would say:—

Amid the multiplicity of jarring sects around you there stands forth an imposing figure which claims to be the sole exponent of God's revelation to man. Belonging exclusively to no nation or people, she is the mother of them all. For eighteen hundred years she has existed, despite the strenuous opposition of empires and of monarchies long since crumbled into dust. And now in the renewal of her immortal youth she is still sending forth her missionaries to the uttermost ends of the earth, and still meeting the attacks of hostile rulers in the same spirit as that in which she confronted Attila. Look at me, she seems to say,—is there anything under the wide canopy of heaven to compare with me, in unity, in majesty, in power? You seek truth. I am the pillar and ground of the truth. You seek light. I bear the Light of the world. You seek life. My mission is to guide men unto Life Eternal. Many calumnies have been uttered against me in the past. They and their authors are long since forgotten. Many calumnies are spoken against me to-day. As earthy vapours obscure the heavenly