

THE PROTESTANT RULE OF FAITH.

"Dearly beloved, believe not every spirit; but try the spirits whether they be of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. . . . They are of the world; therefore of the world they speak, and the world heareth them. We are of God. He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth us not; by this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."—I Ep. St. John, iv: 1. 5. 6.

In a pamphlet published on the 23rd ult., appears a "Verbatim report of a Sermon delivered by the Rev. Wm. Stephenson, in the M. E. Church, Ottawa, January 14th," on the subject: "Why I am a Protestant." This Sermon purports to be a reply to the lecture of the Rev. Father Damen, Jesuit Missionary, delivered on the evenings of December 14th and 18th, in the Catholic Cathedral of this city, on the subject: The Protestant and Catholic Rules of Faith, or the means ordained by Christ whereby men may learn, without fear of being led astray, without the possibility of mistake or error, the true religion, the religion taught by Jesus Christ. Father Damen, in considering the subject, clearly and distinctly stated his proofs and arguments and logically reasoned them out against the Protestant Rule of Faith. Does Mr. Stephenson, as a fair and logical debator, take them up, one by one, and disprove them? He does not: he simply satisfies himself by shying clear of them, or at most, by only firing a few random shots at them in *globo*, and then retiring under the cover of a cloud of dust, which he has laboured to create, by quoting a few texts of Scripture which may dazzle the unwary, but which prove nothing conclusive to the point. Let us see what Father Damen said, and what great value there is in that rule of faith which holds the Rev. Mr. Stephenson in the Protestant religion: "I am a Protestant," he says, "because I hold the Holy Scriptures a sufficient rule of my faith, and myself responsible for searching them." (See page 6.) He gives other reasons also; but the rule of faith being the main question at issue, the subject on which Father Damen lectured, I will strictly confine my remarks to it; and my readers, at the close of this pamphlet, will be able to say, whether I have fulfilled my promise, or wandered off, like the