

But alas! discourses like these would require study, laborious research, patient industry, and at least, a respectable share of talent. And then, a philippic against the Catholics, or a bombshell at the Church of Rome, or an explosion of derisive laughter at the scarlet criminal aforesaid—these come so pat, so natural, so easy, they require so little study, preparation, or talent, that it is very hard indeed to resist the temptation. The success, too, of this sacred artillery is certain beforehand; every shot is sure to tell; it carries the war into the enemy's camp, and amidst the smoke, and flame and noise, all home grievances, abuses or shortcomings are not likely to be thought about. In many cases, too, (O poor human nature!) these spicy sermons are confidently expected; some people would not think the Lord's day or His service was properly celebrated without them; in fact, if they did not receive a few drops of this anti-Popery cordial 'a fainting would take hold of them;' and they would go home without appetite to their untasted dinners, if some 'Romish' tonic had not been administered to the inward man, or a dose of bitters from 'Babylon the Great' to stimulate the feeble powers of his languishing stomach. It should not be forgotten, too, how comfortable it is to be always abusing one's neighbour (in the cause of righteousness of course) and always exposing and condemning his errors, pointing out their dreadful consequences, and warning all mankind against them. Whilst engaged in so holy an occupation, there can be little or no time for self-examen or self-reproach—and every one knows how pleasant it is to be on good terms with one's self—there can be no doubt of your own opinions, if you warmly and constantly impugn those of others; and indeed in warlike stratagems no skill is more effectual than that which keeps the enemy always on the defensive. There might be (such is the weakness of humanity) some qualms, some occasional doubts, some dark fears in the Protestant heart, for the security of its position, and the truth of its opinions; and what more effectual remedy to cleanse the bosom of this perilous stuff, and fortify the