

creed, the Apostles' creed. Is that creed, the Old Faith, as held alike by Enoch and by the Reformers of the sixteenth century, dying?

That is the question which is forced on our notice, specially this month, by two recent discourses in the *Complete Preacher*; a publication noticed favourably last month in our columns. In his lecture in the June number on "Protestantism, an Ocean of Conjecture," the Rev. F. C. Ewer, S.T.D., from the Romish stand-point, asserts that the old reformed theology is dying. These are his words:—

"That whereas 250 years ago the Protestant religious dogmas, held captive to themselves great thoughtful peoples of the Germanic, the Swiss, and the Anglo Saxon man, those dogmas have failed to retain the hold they once had . . . and Protestantism stands to-day, as a form of Christianity, breast-deep in torrents of skepticism, which itself hath let loose, which are deepening around it, and in which it is drowning."

In his sermon, "Is Christianity failing?" in the same number, the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, from the Rationalistic stand-point, says:—

"A change is going on with respect to the faith of men with regard to many fundamental points of religious truth. . . . It is complained everywhere that men are abandoning the (Protestant) Church. . . . The fact is to be marked that the great mass of the intelligent community have in such a sense fallen off from the authority of the preacher and from the influence of the Church." *

According to both these preachers, Romish and Rationalistic, the Old Faith is dying all over the world, and Popery, or Catholicism, or something-ism, or Beecherism, is coming up in its place.

Now we admit that it is quite possible that the allegiance of men to these essential doctrines of Christianity, to which we have already referred, is subject to great changes and fluctuations, may indeed be dying, or dead in congregations, communities, and countries where that allegiance once flourished. The page of history is

* If the aim of the *Complete Preacher* is to give its readers a complete view of truth and error, a mixture of food and poison every month, a knowledge of good and evil, then it should distinctly tell people the peculiar ground, as a preacher, it has chosen to occupy. On this platform it might give us sermons from the disciples of Mahomet, Confucius, Brahma, and Budh. They would be interesting, and the *Preacher* would then be "very complete," and its readers also would be very select.