

INTRODUCTION.

HAD the polemical pamphlet edited by the Honble. and Venble. Archdeacon of York—D. D. L. L. D. been but the Lucubration of some obscure Commoner; I doubt much if it ever would have elicited the high Encomiums, which certain Journalists have lavished upon it; or even occupied for one moment the attention of the public. But Rank and Title with our gullible English are generally preferred to Talent and Truth. Hence, to Publishers, and those concerned in the Book-making Business; whose interest depends on humouring this JOHN BULL propensity; the works of an Honble. and Venble., of a Right Honble. and Right Revd., of My Lord such a one, or of Sir Somebody, be what they may, are far more prized in general, and more eagerly sought after for publication, as sure to have a more immediate run, than the finest productions of untitled and plebeian Genius.—Our Poet Laureate, Southey, was sensible of this, when in the year 1811, in order to puff off his *Penninsular War*, which he was then composing, he applied through the Spanish Legation for the title of *honorary Member of the royal historical and Academic Society of Madrid*: for the obtaining of which from the prime Minister, Don Eusebio Bardaxi, at the instance of Don Manuel Abellia, then Chief Secretary to the Spanish Embassy at our Court; he made a present to this last, of his lumpish Quarto poems, *Maddoc* and *Don Rodrigo*. A Puffer, he knew, in England is sure to gather pelf; be he Clerical, medical, musical, Farcical, or any *cal* you please. Not that I would insinuate from all this, or even imagine for one moment, that the Honble. and Venerable Individual, whose pamphlet we here revise, ever meant his well earned Titles as an offset to his work. But they have certainly in this instance had the usual biassing effect on the undiscerning minds of his rash Panegyrists: else how could they have so lauded to the skies a lucubration, which has nothing in it, original; absolutely nothing to recommend it for either stile or argument, above the sickening religious Tract Effusions, which so inundate every corner of the British Dominions; and all the United States of North America?—We find in it the same ignorant misrepresentation of Catholic Doctrine; the same recklessly unfounded assertions: the same twisting of the Sacred Text from its natural, most obvious and universally established meaning, to make it tally with the preferred conjectures of private interpretation; and suit the Sectarian System adopted by each: the same ignorance of the primitive Church, and of the writings of the holy Fathers: the same vain boastings of irresistible might and triumph, to cover the misgivings of weakness and De-