

the creed of the reformed churches, which were once as peremptory and unrelenting as ever our enemies have deemed the Church of Rome, it must be understood, that the Catholic Church, in matters of faith condemns those only whom she calls heretics. These she always condemned, and these she still condemns. But what does she mean by a heretic? For from this meaning alone are we to discover the justice or injustice of her condemnation and pronounce whether she be charitable or uncharitable. A heretic, according to all sound divines, the definition of general councils, and particularly the Catechism of the Council of Trent, is "One, who despising the authority of the church which he has sufficient reason to believe is the true church of Christ, contrary to its decision obstinately adheres to false and impious opinion." (Cat. Council. Trid Ar ix. part I.) As St Paul pronounces heresy to be a crime, Titus, chap. iii. v. 10, it must be a voluntary act, and the Catholic church has always deemed it so. Obstinacy in known errors, or in rejecting the known truth of revealed faith, is an essential requisite to form a heretic; and it is only against characters of this nature, that the church levels her anathemas of condemnation. And what thinking and reasonable man will refuse to condemn them? If the truths, which the Son of God disclosed to men, merit their assent, their veneration, and their obedience, certainly the man who obstinately, and therefore, knowingly and willingly, disbelieves and rejects them deserves the condemnation of every consistent Christian.

I need hardly remark, that the Church does not consider him a heretic, who sincerely professes another creed, in regard to the falsity of which he does not entertain a fear and is disposed, if he did discover its falsity and the divine authenticity of another creed, instantly to reject his own, and embrace the true one. Catholic moralists even pronounce it to be eminently sinful in a man, who professes a different creed, and is in his own mind convinced that it is the true one, to reject it and embrace Catholicity. If a man entertain rational doubts of the veracity of his own creed, the importance of religion and self-charity require, that he should attempt to resolve those doubts; if he do not make this essay, but remain contented, from any prejudicial motive in the profession of this doubtful creed, then he is a traitor to his own salvation, and must stand condemned by every man of sense. Although those who sincerely profess dissenting creeds, containing the essentials of Christianity, do not belong to the Catholic church in the eyes of men, they do nevertheless belong to her in the sight of God, and, as such, are real members of the church. By baptism, by whomsoever or wheresoever it be given, they are initiated into the Church

of Christ, (and the Catholic church deems herself that church,) and as by the supposition, they have never wilfully and obstinately rejected any known tenet of divine faith, they still remain members of that church.

To be continued.

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A. J. RITCHIE.

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" Mrs. Anne Purcell of a Son.

MARRIAGE RECORD.

JULY 4—Redmond Coleman and Mary Ryan.

INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS.

JULY 4—Patrick Fahie, native of Waterford, Ireland, aged 50 years.
6—James, son of Thomas and Mary Moran, aged 1 year and 5 months.
" Mary, Daughter of Anthony and Hannah McEnnis, aged 5 years.

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