

ber of the Church of England, for all and every one but themselves. The Day of the Lord was to them a day of mourning. For they had no Church, or if there was a Church its desolate aspect increased their anguish, for there was no priest to enkindle on its Altar the fire of Sacrifice.

There were other causes too which contributed to the decay of Catholicity in this Province. There was the fatal, the paramount evil of Mixed Marriages—an evil against which the Church of God, with true maternal solicitude, has always protested—an evil which one of her Pontiffs declares, this Holy Church always held in abhorrence,*—an evil which is the fruitful source of many other evils—of domestic misery, of married wretchedness, of family quarrels, of religious divisions—an evil which weakens or destroys faith, cools the ardour of charity and fire of devotion, and above all consigns an unhappy offspring to the danger of spiritual death; for how can children respect any religion when they daily see that religion is the cause of bickering and strife between their own Parents?

This pernicious system has not only robbed families of their Peace, but the Church of her children. But alas! how could persons in the situation we have described, be made to comprehend the dangerous consequences, the positive sin of such deplorable unions?

*See the Reply of Pope Pius VII. to the application of Napoleon for a dissolution of the Marriage between his Brother Jerome and Miss Patterson of Baltimore who was not a Catholic and in which his Holiness although he says he cannot comply with the Emperor's request declares emphatically that the Church of God has always abhorred such marriages. (See Histoire du Pape Pie VII. par M. Chevalier Acton vol. I. p. 60 where this important Document is to be found at full length.)

† We know that there are some creditable and edifying exceptions in this Province, but the above is the general and obvious result of such ill advised Unions.

But introduce such a publication as the Cross, and convey wholesome religious alimnt through the land. Scatter in every direction the seeds of the Divine Word. Place a Prayer Book, a Hymn Book, a series of Devotions, a Manual of Meditation, an Exposition of Faith, a commentary on the Holy Scriptures, a Description of our beautiful Ceremonies, a History of the triumphs of our Creed, a recital of the sufferings of our Missionaries, a narrative of the Lives of our Saints—places these in the hands of our remote Catholics—send them to every city, and town, and village, and settlement—drop them at the door of every Cottage, and what a change may we not expect through the influence of divine grace. If in addition to this substantial blessing you add the charm of variety, the excitement created by the periodical expectation of this consoling messenger of good tidings, the thirst for religious news, the longing for religious instruction, you must accomplish incalculable good—you must awaken devout feelings and blessed hopes which would have slept perhaps for ever.

Now, we humbly assert that this has been the peculiar mission of the Cross, and that the Cross has done all this.—It has found its way into every part of this and the neighbouring Provinces.—It has secured the approbation of the Clergy, and the support of the faithful.—It has carried the glad tidings of salvation to those desolate spots where the voice of Religion is seldom heard. It has gladdened the heart of the weary pilgrim in the desert, and lit up the mournful soul of the poor Catholic exile with the vivifying beams of hope.—It has reminded him of his God, of his Holy Church, of her solemn ordinances and devout observances. It