

Bryce and Hallam, not one of these men belonged to the Catholic Church. All of them were scholars—some of them of the highest literary distinction. Is it not remarkable that in the face of their united testimony, the traditions of which I speak continue to thrive?

Why is this so? My explanation is as follows:—I have said that these historians were eminent men. So they were; and I make bold to think *it is because of their very eminence* that they fail to appeal to those who find pleasure in accepting such perversions of history as we have been considering.

Men who have never opened the pages of Lecky or Ranke, or Hume or Hallam, in their lives, will eagerly peruse and treasure up in their memories the lying statements of popular writers, such as the author of that delectable treatise "The Book of Martyrs," concerning whom Dr. Littledale does not scruple to say that

"The infamous Foxe, and the not much more respectable Burnet, have so overlaid all the History of the Reformation with falsehood, that it has been well nigh impossible for ordinary readers to get at the facts." 27.

That I believe to be the true explanation of this astonishing state of affairs.

And now one word in conclusion.

What, it may be asked, is the practical utility of these researches into history?

I answer, (1) That it is the duty of every man to ascertain the truth. (2) That it is especially incumbent upon Catholics for their own satisfaction, to be able to shew categorically and definitely, that these charges, which are every day thrown in their faces, prove only the ignorance of those who make them. Moreover, the result of these investigations cannot be without its effect upon persons outside the Church, who for our immediate purpose, may be divided into three classes.

And here I desire to say that in this division I do not include that small number of large minded, cultured men,