

the principle, and it is astonishing the rapidity with which it spread, and the extent to which it was adopted, so that, to employ the language of two eminent theologians, "this addition of external rites was also designed to remove the opprobriums and calumnies which the Jewish and Pagan priests cast upon the Christians, on account of the simplicity of their worship ; esteeming them little better than Atheists, because they had no temples, altars, vestries, priests, nor anything of that external pomp in which the vulgar are so proud to place the essence of religion." The rulers of the Church adopted, therefore, certain external ceremonies that thus they might captivate the senses of the vulgar, and be able to refute the reproaches of their adversaries, thus obscuring the native lustre of the Gospel in order to extend its influence, and making it lose in point of real excellence what it gained in popular esteem. And, says another historian, "the copious transfusion of heathen ceremonies into Christian worship which had taken place before the end of the fourth century had, to a certain extent, if we may express it, paganized the outward form and aspect of religion, and their ceremonies became more general and more numerous, and, so far as the calamities of the times would permit, more splendid in the age which followed. To console the convert for the loss of his festival, others, of a different name but of a similar description, were introduced, and the simple and serious occupation of devotion was beginning to degenerate into a worship of parade and demonstration, or a mere scene of riotous festivity."

Such is the parallel which may fairly be drawn between Popery and Paganism, and such the foundation on which the resemblance rests. It is no libel to describe Popery as Paganized Christianity ; and when there is such an agreement between their temples and their priesthood, and their ritual, to what other conclusion is it possible to come than that the charge be laid against the Church of Rome of changing the