

was continually pointed out to check the presumption of private individuals and prevent the danger of an erroneous interpretation. It was also customary for the people, when any difficulty arose concerning the meaning of the sacred text, to consult the pastors of the church; and if a person was supposed to entertain opinions at variance with the true sense of the sacred books, the bishops exposed the error, by representing the views which had always been held by the church at large, and frequently recourse was had to the See of Rome, in order to render the decision more authoritative and imposing.

In this state of things, when there existed among the faithful generally a spirit of submission and docility, when the authority of the clergy was duly respected, when religion too had nothing to fear from the dissemination of spurious versions of the sacred writings, no further precautions than those we have mentioned were adopted, to prevent the abuse of the sacred volume, and to guard the deposit of faith from the encroachments of error. They who were well grounded in the doctrines of revelation, were permitted to read without restriction the books of the holy Scripture. But when, at a later period, the existing defences of religious truth became less effectual, and especially after the storm of the reformation, when the fundamental principles of Christianity were most violently assailed, by proclaiming every individual an authorized interpreter of the Bible, and corrupt and partial translations of the sacred volume were disseminated on every side, the church deemed it necessary to interpose, and to curtail the privilege which under other circumstances had been salutary in its effects, but which now had become dangerous. Not until the flagrant abuses of the word of God in the sixteenth century, did she introduce any change in her discipline regarding the general use of the holy Scriptures. But at that time it became her duty, as guardian of the faith once delivered to the saints, to defend it at those points where it was most furiously assailed, and as the prevailing error of the period to which we have alluded was the setting up of private opinion against the authority of the church, and the circulation of corrupt versions of the Bible, the only protection left to the truths of Christianity was to be found in the more rigid adherence to the teachings of the chief pastors, whose special office it was to transmit and explain the doctrines of religion. For these reasons it was required by the holy see that the reading of the sacred volume should be permitted to those only among the laity who were judged fit for it by their pastors, and who would receive no detriment from its use.

(To be Continued.)

**AGGREGATE MEETING OF CATHOLICS.**—We understand that the arrangements preliminary to holding the aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, so much called for under present circumstances, are nearly completed, and that an early day will be speedily named for the assemblage.

**CATHOLICS OF IRELAND.**—By the last Government census the number of Catholics is returned as *six millions and a half*, out of a population of eight leaving one million and a half for Protestants of all denominations.—*Pilot*.

**SISTERS OF MERCY.**—Miss Blake, of Cregg, Miss Nolan, of Curry, Miss Mangan, of Gort, and Miss Tighe, of Boxwood, Roscommon, were on Friday received into the Sisters of Mercy Convent, at Galway.—*Tuan Herald*.

Miss Dwyer and Miss Hynes assumed the Order of Sisters of Mercy on Wednesday week here.—*Ibid*.

#### ADVANCE PAYMENTS.

*During the present week we have sent to our Subscribers in Town their respective Accounts for subscriptions to this Paper, due—according to OUR TERMS—on the receipt of the FIRST NUMBER,—in ADVANCE. Surely no one among our Subscribers who values this Publication, will refuse to comply with the Terms.*

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Can be had at the London Book Store, and of Mr. James Donohoe.

**NOTICE.**—All persons having demands against the Subscriber, will please render their Accounts, and all persons indebted to him, will please make immediate payment to JAMES DONOHOE, to whom all debts due him have been assigned.  
Halifax, 9th Jan., 1815. JOHN P. WALSH.

**NOTICE.**—MR. JOHN PATRICK WALSH, of the City of Halifax, Printer, having by Deed of Assignment, dated the 6th day of January, instant, appointed the Subscriber his Assignee, and having assigned to him his books, debts, and all other personal property whatsoever, for the benefit of those to whom he is indebted, such of his creditors as reside within this Province becoming parties to the said Deed of Assignment within three months from its date, and such as reside out of it in six months thereafter, it being provided by the said Assignment, that all parties who shall not execute the same within the said times shall be excluded from all benefit and advantage to be derived therefrom. All persons indebted to the said John P. Walsh are requested to make immediate payment to the Subscriber he having been duly authorized to receive the same and to give discharges therefor, and all the creditors of the said John P. Walsh are requested to call at the Store of the Subscriber and execute the said Deed of Assignment.

JAMES DONOHOE,  
Halifax, 9th January, 1815. No 26, Hollis St.

Published by A. J. RITCHIE, No. 87, Sackville Street, Halifax.  
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