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more souls than by these fitful and violent convulsions, so marked with extravagant and blind zeal."—(*Thoughts on the Religious State of the Country, with reasons for preferring Episcopacy, by the Rev. Calvin Colton, pages 177, 178, 179*). Speaking of another effect of these proceedings, the same writer says, "In visiting an insane hospital a short time since I was forcibly struck by the predominance of religious mania. Since which time, I have embraced all convenient opportunities of inquiring into the different species of mania which prevail in our land, and have been informed that it is greatly the prevalent species. And I am much inclined to give much credence to this statement, from the recent religious history of our country, and from the known susceptibilities of our nature under those startling and astounding shocks which are constantly invented, artfully and habitually applied, under all the power of sympathy and of studied enthusiastic elocution, by a large class of preachers among us. To startle, to shock, is their great secret, their power. To frighten, to shock and paralyse the mind with alternations and scenes of horror, carefully concealing the ground of encouragement and hope, till reason is shaken and hurled from its throne, for the sake of gaining a convert, and, in making a convert, to make a maniac,—as doubtless sometimes occurs under this mode of proceeding, for," says he, "we have full proof of it,—involves a fearful responsibility. I have just heard," continues the same able writer, "of an interesting girl thus driven to destruction in the city of New York, at the tender age of fourteen, by being approached by the preacher after a sermon of this kind, with a secretary by his side, with a book and pen in his hand to take down the names of those who, by invitation, remained to be conversed with.—Having taken her name, the preacher asked, 'Are you for God or the Devil?' Being overcome, her head depressed, and in tears, she made no reply. 'Put her down in the Devil's book!' said the preacher to his secretary. From that time the poor girl became insane; and in her simplicity and innocence she has been accustomed to tell the story of her misfortune."—(*Ibid, pages 41, 43, 44*). These astounding statements and their judicious accompanying remarks are to be found in a work published in New York, entitled, *Thoughts on the Religious State of the Country, with reasons for prefer-*