

Bible and Tract societies, and the promiscuous education of papist and Protestant children? What mean, among us, the putting up of papal schools—the preaching of priests and bishops—the importation of mass-mongers with long coats and no brains—the forming of clubs to sustain lectures whose objects are to vilify the Gospel, and to prop up a declining superstition? They distinctly mark the advancing influence of Protestantism.

And what mean the suppression of Protestant worship in Rome—the expulsion of the Bible from its walls—the perfect exclusion of all Protestant influences from the papal states of both the old and New World? If Protestantism is of feeble influence, and declining at that, why so anxious to head it off every where? If false in theory, and feeble in power, and poor in resources, and endlessly divided withal, it is nowhere to be feared. We call, then, upon pope, prelates, and priests, no longer to act as cowards in the presence of such a feeble foe. It can do but little, nor can it do that little long. Give it free access, then, to Rome. Tell Spain, and Portugal, and Italy, and Austria, and the South American states, to open their gates, to raise the port-cullis, to admit this declining system to enter, and without let or hindrance to try its strength. Tell them as freely to admit Protestantism as Protestant states admit popery. Will they do it? If not, then we nail to the counter as a priestly falsehood all that they utter as to “the decline of Protestantism;” and the man who a few weeks ago made this the theme of a lecture, whose feebleness is only equalled by its falsehood, and who has since harangued in London on the liberality of Protestantism, is probably at this very hour counselling the cardinals, instead of opening these nations to put new locks on all their doors.

But this man has gone for his pallium. Do you wish to know what a pallium is? At first it was a woollen mantle sent by the Roman emperors to the higher ecclesiastics as a badge of dignity; now it is a woollen band, three or four fingers broad, worn outside the vestments. It is made by the nuns of the convent of St. Agnes, and from the wool of consecrated sheep. For this bawble, the bestowal of which by the pope is necessary to the right exercise of the functions of an archbishop, the receiver must pay his holiness a very large sum. Nor is it bestowed save on the giving of the most solemn pledges of canonical obedience to the Holy See. When our friend returns, wearing this fillet made from the wool of holy sheep, the faithful expect that Protestantism will pale in the presence of this silly gewgaw from the convent of St. Agnes! This is the ridiculous side of the affair. But it has a serious one. This thing of bishops going to Rome for vestments and investiture convulsed kingdoms in the Middle Ages. And why? Because of their swearing allegiance to Rome, and renouncing their own sovereigns. This is the view of the matter which now so intensely agitates England. Let a serious rupture between Britain and Rome now take place, and Wiseman will