

Amos B. Fane

WHAT IS POPERY?

MY DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

According to promise, I proceed to give you the differences, or rather *the chief* differences between the English Catholic and the Roman Catholic Churches.

But before entering upon the subject, I would again call upon you, as I have always done when alluding to other denominations, to endeavour to think and to speak of all these things in a spirit of peace, and with a greater desire after the truth as it is in the Bible, than after the conquest of other people's opinions; with a greater wish to know the will of God better and better every day than to increase our numbers, or overcome by force of arguments or of mere high-sounding words, those who oppose themselves to us, or to what we consider to be the truth as it is in Jesus. Let us pray, then, Beloved, for the *spirit of meekness* as well as for that degree of firmness and unshaken stability in the faith which is always so necessary for the support of all Christian doctrines.

We may not always have appeared to possess as much of that gentleness and meekness as the Gospel demands. In all discussions there always naturally mixes too much harshness and severity; and we are in danger of falling into this snare quite as much as those with whom we are often obliged to contend, and therefore it is very necessary that we ever bear in mind, and in these days of discord more than ever, this valuable Scripture passage in the 25th verse of the 2d Chapter of the 2d Epistle to Timothy, where the Apostle calls upon Timothy to "be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient;" "*in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.*" And again in 1st. Peter, iii. 15, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you *with meekness and fear.*"

It is, Beloved, in order to enable you to do this. "to give a reason of the hope that is in you *with meekness and*