

From the Daily Free Press, June 9, 1869.

CORRESPONDENCE ON INDULGENCES.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your enquiry whether I would approve of your publishing, in a pamphlet form, the controversy lately carried on between Dean Hellmuth and myself, I will say that I have not the least objection to it. The Catholic Church and her system can bear investigation, and are not afraid of light. Ignorance and bad faith are the only foes she dreads. To remove the one by stating our doctrines, and unmask the other by showing the inconsistencies and contradictions of our opponents, is the duty of the Catholic controversialist.

The course pursued by the rev. dignitary of the Church of England, in the controversy about Indulgences, is in keeping with the tactics of all the adversaries of Rome during the last three hundred years. In their insane hatred for everything Catholic, they first set up a phantom of their own imagination, and then attack it with a blind zeal, prompted by the worst passions. Let me, *en passant*, suggest to our opponents, whoever they may be, if they wish to arrive at a correct view of our teaching and practices, to consult first our Catholic standard works, and then assure themselves that they do really know and understand the Catholic system.

If the correct statement of our doctrine fails to convince them, they will not, on that account, be ill-treated or abused by us. We are in duty bound to respect honest convictions, however erroneous we may consider them. But, in the name of justice and common sense, let them cease to charge us with practices and doctrines which we abhor. This is but justice and fair play. Let us have them.

I have the honor to be, dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. BRUYERE, V. G.

St. Peter's Church, London, June 8, 1869.