

HOLY WATER.

THERE are few doctrines or observances of the Holy Catholic Church which have escaped the ridicule or misrepresentation of her enemies. Amongst the vast quantity of anti-Catholic literature which this age, prolific in mediocrity, sends forth to the world, how little of argument is to be found, and at the same time how much of erroneous statements, false propositions, doubtful histories with blank names of persons and places, unjust imputations; how much jest and raillery, sneer and sarcasm, mockery, scorn and derision! laughter is easier than argument; ridicule sets dialectics at defiance, and a scornful gibe is not by any means so difficult as the construction and proof of a sound syllogism. Indeed logic finds in Protestantism its most deadly foe, for Protestantism cannot afford to be logical. Its false position is inconsistent with the primary rules of right reasoning. To return to the unity of truth which it has abandoned, would be to destroy it; to advance is equally disastrous, for the onward journey if honestly and logically pursued on Protestant principles must abruptly terminate in the gloomy abyss of infidelity. Sometimes, no doubt, it will display extraordinary powers of ratiocination, and bear down on some unfortunate dogma of 'Popery' with the heaviest artillery of Aristotle and Plato, and when it has achieved thereby a fancied victory will clap its hands with joy and conscious triumph. But alas! for the glory of the achievement, Protestantism was only demolishing a lie of its own creation, battering down the walls of an imaginary castle, and conquering a phantom in pasteboard, instead of a real Roman giant. The dogma which it attacked so fiercely was not a Catholic dogma, but a Protestant invention: was as much or more abhorred by the calumniated 'Papist' than by his Protestant accuser.