

THE CROSS.



NEW

SIBIRIA.

VOL. 3.

No. 9.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 20, 1847.

CALENDAR.

- FEBRUARY 21—Sunday—Quadragesima I Sunday of Lent.
- 22—Monday—St. Peter's Chair Antioch.
- 23—Tuesday—St. Peter Damian B. C. and Doct.
- 24—Wednesday—St. Matthias, Apostle.
- 25—Thursday—St. Felix III, P. and C.
- 26—Friday—Feast of the Lance and Nails of our Lord J. C. G.
- 27—Saturday—St. Antony, Abbot.

CATHOLIC ASCENDANCY.

There has been, it seems some sharp debating in the House, in consequence of some returns moved for by Mr. McKeagney, the worthy and efficient member for Inverness. A series of articles in the "Times" had recently provoked the Catholics of the entire Province. We were treated as if we had nothing to complain of, as if we got more than our fair share of public patronage, as if we ought to be grateful for the toleration we received, and chew our bitter end in silence. This was adding mockery to injustice and insult. The fact was, that no Catholic in the Province held a situation at all, or at least any thing which would deserve the name. We forgot that we had perhaps a brace of constables and a Gaoler in Halifax of the ascendant religion. Although it has since drawn in its horns, the base object of the *Times* was transparent enough. They first tried to make distinctions, and sow dissension between the Scotch, French and Irish Catholics, (a most fruitless attempt), and afterwards thought to collect the Protestants of all Churches in the Province under the tattered Orange Banner of Catholic exclusion. Hence the cuckoo cry raised against Catholic ascendancy, and Catholic encroachment. Had Mr. McKeagney's motion been carried, had the returns of all office holders in the Province specifying the religion of each, been ordered, the whole pile of falsehoods would have been instantly knocked to pieces. The knowing ones were well aware of this, and hence the motion was resisted, although such returns have been frequently made in the Imperial Parliament. It would certainly

have been very inconvenient to furnish a List in which, under the Catholic heading there would be found nothing but a succession of blanks. But, as the Returns have been refused, we hope we shall hear no more cant about Catholic ascendancy. Without discussing the merits of this, or any other Government it has happened some how or other that in the distribution of places, the just claims of more than eighty thousand Catholics have been overlooked, accidentally of course. All this was painful enough but it is still more galling to be told by the *Times* that we wanted nothing but Catholic ascendancy. We don't imagine however, that the *Times* believed one word of what it said upon the subject. We give it implicit credit for a species of low cunning. Their game was this, "let us attack the Catholics and their religion, and it will be a hand-grenade flung amongst the ranks of our political opponents, which will scatter them in all directions. Our political allies, though religious foes, of the *Guardian* and the *Messenger*, together with the *Post* will make a simultaneous assault. The Catholics will be provoked into a quarrel with some of their friends of other religions and at all events we will catch all the loose fish of bigotry through the country, and by this means strengthen our party with deserters from the enemy's camp." But the *Times*, has reckoned without his host. The enlightened of every communion in the Province clearly see, that Catholics make no unreasonable demands, that they seek for no undue ascendancy, and that all this cry about Catholic encroachment is a mere bug-bear. The *Times* should know too, that every honest and respectable Presbyterian and Baptist condemns the unwarrantable and scurrilous attacks of the *Guardian* and the *Messenger*. To the liberal, the tolerant, the enlightened of every creed, the Catholic can hold out his right hand of fellowship. Our past conduct fully proves this. But we will purchase the political support of none at the expense of religious feelings. The forfeiture of the few paltry political advantages which we possess, would not deter us from resenting any foul mouthed or blasphemous attacks on the sacred mysteries which we revere, or the faith which we love more dearly than our lives: and the sooner all parties know this the better.