

THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

VOL. 3.

No. 42.

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. 11.

HALIFAX, OCTOBER 16, 1847.

- OCTOBER 17—Sunday—XXI after Pent, III. Oct. Purity of in the ascendant, the morals, the comforts, and the interests of
 B. V. M. G. Doub. poor, were objects of her special care and protection. It was
 18—Monday—St. Luke, Evan Doub II cl not by force and violence that her benign sway was extended
 19—Tuesday—St. Peter of Alcantara C. Doub. over the earth. Displaying in their own persons the heroic
 20—Wednesday—St. John Cantius C. Doub com & C virtues of the earlier ages of the Church, the Missionaries of
 21—Thursday—St. Ubald B. C. Semid from 10th Rome brought the glad tidings of the gospel to many a distant
 May. land, and made many a barren soil productive of the holiest
 22—Friday—St. Bernardine of Sienna C. Semid fm. fruits of Catholicity. It is true that the temporal power of the
 20th May. Church has suffered severe shocks in some European nations, but
 23—Saturday—Feast of the Most Holy Redeemer G it is equally true that selfishness, poverty, paupers and work-
 Doub Sup houses sit brooding over the ruins of its influence, and some of
 the ablest writers of the age look to the revival of that influence
 as the only remedy for the evils that surround our social condi-
 tion. But quitting these speculations, it is a fact, disguise it as
 we may, that the Roman Catholic Church is still as young, as
 buoyant, and as vigorous as ever. She considers it her sacred
 duty to propagate the gospel to the ends of the earth; and dur-
 ing the last three centuries, if neither the leagues of nations nor
 the angry tumult of Conventicles, nor all the malice of Hell, has
 been able to arrest her in her triumphant course, in vain will
 our separated brethren look for any sign of decay—in vain will
 the Whistons and the Millers seek to persuade their deluded
 followers that the days of the Papacy are numbered. Rome
 possesses a vitality which will give all their prophecies the lie,
 and make their lucubrations appear like the ravings of madmen.
 In our days one of the most extraordinary agencies employed in
 the service of the church is the Association for the propagation
 of the Faith. The first idea of such a Society was proposed by
 a Lady at Lyons in the year 1822. For some time its operations
 were confined to Lyons and its immediate vicinity, but when
 the French Bishops became fully aware of the importance of the
 Society, they established Branch Associations in their various
 diocesses. The objects of the Society having been fully ascer-
 tained, it was gradually introduced into other countries; and
 at the present day there is scarcely a country in Europe that
 has not contributed towards the general fund in Lyons. In
 point of fact these Branch Associations have no limits but the
 ends of the earth. The Priests who are now preaching the
 Gospel to the Tartars beyond the walls of China may be indebted
 for a livelihood to the pence and half-pence of the poor ser-
 vant girls in New York, and the contributions of some pious

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

It is a trite remark that every age of the Church has its distinguishing characteristics. The promise made to St. Peter will of course be fulfilled. In despite of the powers of darkness, the Supremacy of the Church will make itself felt and known. Though the wisdom of this world leagued with its power and wickedness, may seek to degrade the Church to the level of a mere human institution, and thus sap the foundations of Christianity, every trial to which she is subjected, will only tend to confirm her divine origin, and impress upon man the futility of his efforts to enslave her.

It is enough for us to know that she is the "pillar and the ground of truth" and cannot consequently lead us into error.—but while we are thus convinced of her immortal destiny, we cannot but admire those human agencies which God has from time to time summoned to her aid. When the Church was struggling into existence in the midst of blood and slaughter, the patient suffering of the martyrs was the best test of her genuine principles. Weak, wounded, and derided, she yet became the arbitress of public opinion, and the statues of the Gods, in the most civilized nations of antiquity, were compelled to yield to the image of the crucified Redeemer. Whatever shallow babblers may say of the darkness of the middle ages, it is unquestionable that wherever the influence of the Church was