

*these circumstances considered, many of the Bishoprics are exceedingly poor : it is forgotten to form a comparative estimate of their wealth with reference to the scale of English opulence in the higher classes of Society ; it is forgotten that there are single individuals in England whose incomes exceed the whole aggregate amount of those of the Archbishops, and all the Bishops together.*

---

NOTE C. p. 12. In reflecting upon what I have here said, I have partaken of that anxiety which was felt by the great Hooker, when he had declared, and having been attacked for the declaration, was defending his confident and comfortable belief, "that God was merciful to save thousands of our fathers, living in Popish Superstitions, inasmuch as they sinned ignorantly." He appears to have been afraid that some persons might pervert this charitable hope to their own damage and that of the Church ; so interpreting it as to lower the necessity of a discerning faith in Christ, to think much too lightly of the risk of conformity to a system which is not simply marked by deviations from the Word of God, but is prophetically denounced in that Word, and to accommodate the way of Salvation by a perilous easiness, to human expectations.

Having habitually regarded the case of the Roman Catholics in this country, in the mass, as very nearly approaching to that of "our fathers" before the Reformation as viewed by Hooker, because it has not pleased God that any effectual means should yet exist to carry on the work of Reformation among them ; having seen how utterly abortive some attempts of this nature have proved, and being strongly inclined to believe that their day is not yet come, I have been apprehensive that in giving utterance to these sentiments, however I may have sought to guard against such an effect, I may have opened a door to such prejudicial inferences, in certain minds, as I have stated above.

As far therefore as concerns persons so minded, I would avail myself of the language of Hooker, to warn them of their danger : In handling the Salvability of the Romanist and maintaining the affirmative of the question, he says that he has therein "walked, as with reverence, so with fear ; with reverence, in regard to our Fathers, which lived in former times ; not without fear, considering them that are alive.

"I wish from mine heart," he continues, "their conversion, who-soever are thus perversely affected. For I must needs say, their case is fearful, their estate dangerous, which harden themselves, presuming on the mercy of God towards others. It is true that God is merciful, but let us beware of presumptuous sins. God delivered Jonah from the bottom of the Sea ; will you therefore cast yourselves headlong from the tops of rocks, and say in your heart, God shall deliver us ? He pitieth the blind that would gladly see ; but will he pity him that may see, and hardeneth himself in blindness ? No, Christ hath spoken too much unto you, to claim the privilege of your fathers."

But as far as concerns the hope indulged for those who are in error, by that holy and heavenly-minded man and thoroughly enlightened Pro-