

through one of his ordained instruments, could say, "Our Lord God no longer deals with us as God : he has given all power to the Pope," he could choose what means he pleased to perpetuate his authority and make it generally felt. He made choice of priests and gold. Some of the names of the priestly tribe he ordained were—Cardinals, Vicars-General, Legates, Arch-Episcopals, Primates, Arch-Bishops, Counts, Abbots, Bishops, Holy Fathers, Doctors, Confessors, Nuncios, Priors, and common Priests. As to filthy lucre, it made its way into the Roman box in the shape of Peter's pence, purchase of degrees, penance tax, confessional money, indulgence sales, tithes, price of purgatorial deliverances, holy pilgrims' tax, &c. &c.

Such was and is popular christianity in that hierarchy called the Roman church. To shut up the Bible, to conceal the light of heaven, to exclude the free grace of God, and to crush the liberty of the gospel, were these two species of power employed ; and most effectually did they answer their design for nearly ten centuries. Ten centuries did we say ?—their influence extends to the present moment, but their benighting sway was more complete from the sixth to the sixteenth century. The work of Rome's agents was to decry the Bible and magnify the Pope—to bar the gates of heaven and offer the pardon of sins for a stipulated price. Hear what one of them, in the dark days of papal rule, said of the scriptures, in pious warning to his brethren :

"The New Testament is a book full of serpents and thorns. Greek is a modern language, but recently invented, and against which we must be on our guard. As to Hebrew, my dear brethren, it is certain that whoever studies *that* immediately becomes a Jew."

This shows not only the piety but the learning of the priests. In some one of the papal schools, in France, about the time of the revival of fetters, it was affirmed—"There is an end of religion if the study of Hebrew and Greek is permitted." Such was the policy of Rome and the anointed ones under the Pope.

Now hear a sample of the language employed in drawing up indulgences, sold to the people for a price proportionate to their ability to pay :

"Our Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on thee, and absolve thee by the merits of his most holy sufferings ! And I, in virtue of the apostolic power committed to me, absolve thee from all ecclesiastical censures, judgments, and penalties that thou mayst have merited ; and further, from all excesses, sins, and crimes that thou mayst have committed, how-