

heresy or the dethronement of heretical Princes ? Such atrocities as were perpetrated by Protestants on Catholics in the Low Countries were not measures of religious persecution but acts of vengeance excited to frenzy by the far greater atrocities of Alva and his fellow persecutors. Protestantism, if unhappily it did in some cases punish public profession, never scrutinized conscience with the rack. Cromwell prohibited the Mass, but he disclaimed all inquisition into conscience. The darkness of course lingered longest in the countries least advanced in civilization. Scotland in 1697, when a young man was hanged for blasphemy, was still in a very barbarous condition, and the temper of the people had been rendered cruel by the persecution of the Covenanters under James II. It is pretended that this took place after persecution in Roman Catholic countries had ceased. It was nearly contemporary with the extermination of the Huguenots. The autos-da-fe in Spain and Portugal went on far into the next century, and one took place in Mexico so late as 1815. In France the religious murder of Calas took place in 1762, and that of La Barre in 1766, while in 1731 the Prince Bishop of Salzburg expelled the whole of the Protestant population, 30,000 in number, from his territories. But this is not the whole, nor even the most important part, of the case. The most important part of the case is that Protestantism with one voice now disclaims the principle of persecution and bewails every act of persecution that was ever committed in its name ; while Rome in her last manifesto distinctly reaffirms the principle of persecution by anathematizing all who deny that she has the right to use the temporal power for the enforcement of her creed, and so late as 1867 canonized the cruel inquisitor Peter Arbues. To bring the fact nearer home, Father Gingras, of Quebec, in a pamphlet which has often been quoted, has an unqualified defence of the Inquisition. "The excessive cruelty of the Inquisition ! pure calumny, gentlemen, never was a criminal tribunal more humane." Ask a Jesuit whether he renounces persecution and condemns the