

not quote from the Holy Apostle; anybody who reads this bit of a letter of mine can examine this chapter for himself.

But Mr. Editor, I think I hear some one or other of my Protestant friends saying, "I don't see any harm in Mr. Stephens' letter; he has merely given his opinion, criticised the lecture a little, and exposed some of the errors of Romanism."

Is that all he has done? Let us see. He calls the Lecturer "pleasant and plausible." *Plausible* is a word always taken in a bad sense, and *pleasant* being coupled with it, must be taken in a bad sense also; this is the positive degree, or stage No. 1, of insinuating that the Reverend gentleman is a hypocrite and a humbug! Then he talks about "looking below the surface of his sophistry." Sophistry also is a word taken in a bad sense, and is a little worse than plausibility. This is the comparative degree, or stage No. 2 of insinuating that the Reverend gentleman is a hypocrite and a humbug. The last paragraph of his Letter refers to the Lecturer's "SHODDY, off from which Mr. Stephens has taken the gloss." We all know the meaning of the word "shoddy," and it must be taken in a worse sense than either plausibility or sophistry. Here we have the superlative degree, or stage No. 3 of the insinuation! So that the Rev. Mr. Ferguson, one of the Professors of St. Michael's College, of Toronto, who is, as I said before, a gentleman, a christian, and a clergyman; who is loved and revered by all who know him, as being one of the most straightforward and sincere of men, is stated by Mr. W. A. Stephens of the town of Owen Sound, who is a lay member of a small sect of Christians called Campbellites or Disciples, to be a pleasant, plausible, sophistical shoddyist.

Not content with thus villifying Mr. Ferguson, he creates an opportunity of having a nice sly stab at Catholics in general when he says: "According to Mr. Ferguson, there are two hundred and fifty millions of Catholics who believe that the words spoken to Peter, 'I will give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and what thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven,' conferred on the Pope of Rome the right and the power to do all this. Now, in the name of all who reverence the Word of God, I can't believe it, although this avowal bring me under the anathema of the Pope, &c."

He here says, "In the name of all who reverence the Word of God, I can't believe it." Pretty hard to tell what "it" means, according to the construction—might mean Father Ferguson's statement about the hundred and fifty millions of Catholics; if so, then there is an insinuation that Father Ferguson is a liar—might mean that long list of nonsense which he wishes to shew "according to Mr. Ferguson" that Catholics believe, although according to Mr. Ferguson *nothing of the sort was stated*, Mr. Stephens having merely drawn on his imagination for all that. If the latter then there is an insinuation that Catholics do not reverence the Word of God (meaning the written Word of God I presume.) This would be a gross slander not worth trying to refute.

I am endeavoring to keep entirely clear of Theology, whether I can continue to the end to do so I cannot say; but I do not like polemical discussions—scarcely ever do they either change or modify the religious opinions of any one. If needs be, I can give a good account of my faith; but such is not my object. I wish to reprove, as far as one humble individual can, the bad taste, the spite, the malice,