

the talent, with which I entrusted thee. *Well done thou good and faithful servant, because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee Lord over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.* Then shall the gates of heaven be thrown open to admit the Lord of Hosts, who returns leading in triumph the happy soul whom by his grace he has rescued from the devouring jaws of the infernal dragon, while the heavenly court resonnds with the song of victory.

O, who would not wish, with Balaam, though many with him wish in vain, to die the death of the just, and that their last end be like unto theirs? But you know, dear Christians, that unless you live the life of the just, your fate in the end must necessarily resemble that of the wicked. You have it now in your power to choose betwixt eternal happiness and endless misery. Choose then now that better part, which shall never be taken from you.

COMMUNICATION.

[FOR THE CATHOLIC.]

SIR,

IN a late number of the "*Canadian Watchman*," I find a communication, signed "*A Spectator*," replete with falsehoods and misrepresentations of Catholicity and Catholic practices. This villifier of religion, says he is "a native of DOWNPATRICK" in Ireland, and that he has once visited Lough Derg, and there saw, (wonderful to behold!!!) Catholic pilgrims, adore their God, (to use his own language,) "evincing the appearance of the most profound devotion," "making their station," "on their bare knees," at "STRUEL," "a place to which, from time immemorial, Romanists have been accustomed to resort."—But this nondescript of expatriated maligners,—this "*heretic*," as he calls himself, continues thus:—"After this an ablution in the bathing-well, delivered from all past offences, and enabled every individual to begin a new score." Does ocular demonstration, by his one visit to mock the adoration of God, prove that "ablution in the bathing-well, delivered from all past offences, and enabled every individual to begin a new score."—No, the charge either originates in his own narrow mind, stultified with rancour, and eclipsed with bigotry, or he has imbibed it from the lower order of ignorant and degraded pike and gun Evangelicals. That Roman Catholics practice penance, is a thing pretty generally known; and if I am not mistaken, I believe it is a principle recommended even in the Protestant Church, though not enforced,—for we find restrictions, by the prohibition of flesh on certain days, in their Common Prayer Book. And this ignorant *Spectator*, was struck with "*disgust*" at Catholics humbling themselves before their God, though he reads how the sinful Ninevites, marked by God for destruction, were preserved by their adoption of penance! How then, can he brand Catholics as "victims of vice and superstition," in order if he could, to shew a concatenation existing between catholicity and infidelity?

But to keep the credulous from becoming the dupes of malevolence and bigotry, I will give the reader a true outline of the history of the place,

which withal, this pretended Spectator may never have had, but from lying Tract matter, the means of knowing,—if he had, I am inclined to think, he would have treated the subject more reverently, and respected more, if really an Irishman, the religion of his sainted ancestors, and the mouldering fragments of their former greatness:—

"DOWNPATRICK; is esteemed one of the most ancient towns in Ireland, being noted in history before the arrival of Saint Patrick; its present name, signifies the *Mount of Patrick*, which has been given to it, from the rath which lies on the N. W. side of the town,—the conical height of which is 60 feet, and the circumference 210 feet, it is surrounded by three great ramparts, one of which is 30 feet broad. This is supposed to have been formerly the place of the Palace of the Kings of *Ublagh* or *Down*. It was made the seat of a bishop, by Saint Patrick. The Cathedral, stands near the town, on the ascent of a hill;—over the east window, are three handsome ancient niches, in which the pedestals still continue, whereupon it is supposed the statues of St. Patrick, St. Bridget, and St. Columb, formerly stood,—for tradition and history confirm, that these three Saints were deposited there:—two square columns adjoin the east end of the Cathedral, one of which is solid, and the other hollow, and in it twenty winding steps remaining, which are supposed to have led up to the roof; on a stone over the east window, is a very ancient inscription, (which, perhaps, the *Spectator* in the *Watchman*, or some of his orthodox connections so expert in the fabrication of *Tracts* and *Bibles*, are able to translate—but by-the-by, it has beaten out all the Alphas and Omegas of the trans-Atlantic pike and gun party.) No less than five religious houses, stood anciently in this town, viz:—one for Benedictines, (being the old Cathedral just mentioned,) which before De Courcey's time, was a house of Secular Canons, and by him converted into a Benedictine Seminary: one of Crouched Friars, called the English Priory: one of Canons Regular, called the Irish Priory: one of Certierian Nuns: and the fifth, of Observantine Franciscans, founded in the twelfth century:—the first of these houses, was enlarged and beautified by De Courcey; the second, was founded by him; the third, by Malachy O'Morgair, Bishop of Down, in 1138, and the last, by Hugh De Lacy, Earl of Ulster; it is uncertain who founded the Nunnery.—There was an Hospital for Lepers, dedicated to St. Nicholas,—and another at Kilcloiff, dedicated to St. Peter, both these Hospitals were in the vicinity of ST. PATRICK'S WELLS, the celebrity and salutary effect of whose waters, drew there, many lepers and others, for relief. The custody of both these Hospitals, were by Patent, dated 2d. April, 1413, granted to John Young, John Molyne, and Walter Celcys, with lands, tenements, and appurtenances. About forty feet from the Cathedral, and near the Old Abbey, was a round tower, sixty-six feet high, the thickness of the walls 3 feet, and the diameter on the inside 8 feet,—this tower was taken down, in order to enlarge the west end of the Cathedral, and what is remarkable, under the foundation of this tower, was found the vestiges of a more an-

cient church, of seemingly excellent masonry, having many cut stone, that had evidently been used in some former building.

STRUEL WELLS, or as some call them *St. Patrick's Wells*, are about one mile distant from Downpatrick, they are four in number instead of three, (as represented by the Spectator, who perhaps never saw them, but feels anxious to shew his ignorance and bigotry,) they are each covered with a vault of stone, and have always a good supply of water, as there is a subterraneous aqueduct which passes from one to the other. All these vaults seem to be very ancient, and near one of them are the ruins of a small chapel, dedicated to St. Patrick. This place of penance, has been held in high repute both at home and abroad, for we find in the old Records, several safe conducts granted by the Kings of England, to foreigners desirous to visit it, and particularly in the year 1358, one to *Malestava Ungarus*, knight: another, bearing the same date, to *Nicholas de Beccario*, a nobleman of Ferrara; and in 1397, one to *Raymond*, Viscount de Perilleux, and Knight of Rhodes, with a train of twenty men and thirty horses.

ST. FINTAN'S.—About a half mile from these Wells, was the place formerly resorted to by penitents:—On that island, a Priory of Augustinian Friars, was founded by St. Augustine, (Bishop of Canterbury, England,) in which St. Daobec, is said to have been buried. It had a chapel with convenient houses for the Monks, the remains of which may yet be seen. A Canon of the Priory of St. Daobec or St. Fintan, residing on the island for the service of the Church and pilgrims.

SAUL-ABBEY, is a short distance from St. Fintan's, there was a monastery erected here in the year 432 by St. Patrick, and perhaps the first founded monastery in the kingdom, it was erected for Regular Canons, and St. Duny, was created Abbot of it. The Church was not built in the usual manner E. and W., but N. and S. Large ruins remain of this Abbey, with two small vaulted rooms of stone, yet entire, and one of them is used as a tomb.

If ELY of the "*Watchman*," or this *Spectator*, or the Editors of the "*Christian Advocate*," or the American Orthodoxy, and all their pious young men and women, with their Revivals, their Bibles and their Tracts, and Missionaries raising millions for the spreading of their New Light; their hosts of Sunday-School raw recruits, mustered with slates, pens, and pencils, paper, reading-made-easys, revised and corrected Bibles, and fabricated Tracts, can prove that the Protestant Religion adheres to the same tenets, it did at the Reformation, or even one hundred and fifty years ago;—or if they can reconcile the difference of religious tenets adduced by Protestant writers, 150 years ago, and those now adduced; I will admit Mr. Ely, and the whole above-mentioned tribe, *tout ensemble*, to be true Protestants—and will most willingly answer a few simple queries in a late *Watchman*. If not, I will proclaim them a horde of impostors, inculcating false tenets, and instead of spreading the true light of the gospel, engendering a chaos of inconsistencies, at variance with christianity (consequently anti-chris-