

even uncourteous words ; but they do not, of themselves, imply, nor are they intended to convey, any imputation on Mr. Maturin's moral character or conduct. The description here given, and the instances which will now be produced in proof of its correctness, are submitted merely for the purpose of showing that a person of Mr. Maturin's mental constitution is entitled to but very little consideration as an authority on any matters of deep importance, most especially on those of a religious description. On these latter the visions of imagination, or mere impulsive feelings in any degree, are not to be admitted ; but on the contrary, sound *reason*, enlightened and clear *perceptions*, a comprehensive and accurate *judgment*, as well as full and correct information, are indispensably requisite.

One instance in proof of the opinion expressed as to Mr. Maturin's mental character is furnished by the particulars of an *external* nature, which he himself has informed us powerfully contributed to draw him towards the Roman Catholic doctrine and faith, and at length to establish him there. Those *external* means which were so powerful towards his withdrawal from one system of religious belief to another of a directly opposite description, commenced, as he informs us, their operation upon him when, "with a feeling of devout curiosity," he "attended High Mass, for the first time, in December, 1841." "This event," he says, "constituted a new era in my religious history ;" and he gives as reasons for it, "the *solemnity* of the service, the *splendour* of the ceremonies, and the *devotion* of the worshippers." Immediately thereafter he goes on to speak of his "reading, praying, doubting, and believing, and his '*fear*' that after all' his renunciation of Protestantism might be only a delusive work of the imagination and fancy," and then says, "accordingly I still hesitated before taking so decisive a step." These and other details which he has given, as to *mental* exercises, may be passed by with merely the remark that they all occurred before he became a clergyman of a Protestant Church.