

THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

VOL. 2.

No. 7.

God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 14, 1846.

CALENDAR.

- Feb. 15.—Sunday—Sexagesima.
16.—Monday—St Gregory X Pope and Confessor.
17.—Tuesday—Commemoration of Passion of Our Lord.
18.—Wednesday—St Raymond of Pennafort.
19.—Thursday—St Peter's Chair at Rome.
20.—Friday—St John of Matha, Confessor.
21.—Saturday—St Scholastica, Virgin.

(Circular of the Bishop on the observance of Lent.)

Rev. dear Sir,

You will have the goodness to read the following Address in the various Churches of your district before the commencement of Lent.

I remain, Rev. dear Sir,

Your obedient servant in Christ,

† WILLIAM WALSH.

Halifax, 10th February, 1846.

Dearly beloved brethren,

The holy and penitential season of Lent is about to commence; 'the acceptable time' of grace, 'the days of salvation' and mercy will soon begin; and our Holy Mother the Church, through the voice of her chief Pastors, calls upon her faithful children throughout the whole world, 'to turn to the Lord their God with their whole hearts in fasting, in weeping and in mourning.'

Charged, as we have been, by the venerable Head of the Church, with your pastoral superintendance, and being appointed so to 'watch as to render an account of your souls,' we feel as if at

this moment the earnest admonition of the Prophet Joel were addressed to us.

"Blow the trumpet in Sion, sanctify a Fast, call a solemn assembly, gather together the people, sanctify the Church, assemble the ancients, gather together the little ones, and them that suck at the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth from his bed, and the bride out of the bridal chamber. Between the porch and the altar, the priests, the Ministers of the Lord shall weep, and shall say: 'Spare, O Lord, spare thy people, and give not thine inheritance to reproach.'"

We, therefore, sound in your ears, this salutary and penitential trumpet; we proclaim this solemn Fast, hallowed as it is by Church authority, Apostolic observance, and Divine ordinance. We summon you more frequently to the House of God, that you may listen to his divine law and meditate upon its eternal truths; that you may recount before Him, and 'in the bitterness of your hearts,' all the sinful years of your past lives, and that by 'laying the axe to the root' of your vices and criminal habits you may 'bring forth fruits worthy of penance,' purify, and sanctify your souls. We invite the young and the old, the married and the single, the clergy and the laity, to unite together during this auspicious period, and by fasting, prayer, and other good works, to offer a holy violence to Heaven. For, now our glorious King and Saviour, collects all his forces together under