

If we were voluntary, and unprovoked aggressors, we might indeed expose ourselves to rebuke : but surely we may stand, unblamed, on our defence ; and may unblamed refute the accusations, so unreasonably brought against us. This is, indeed, so clear, that to deny it, would be virtually to assert, that to uphold the modes of faith which men profess, and the soundness of the doctrines they maintain, are subjects, only to be touched by our adversaries ; subjects sacred, in their hands ;—in the hands of all others, illiberal, oppressive, and unchristian !

In discussions of this sort, our exertions, should be proportioned to our danger : We should not spare to declare the whole truth : We should take, and maintain, the high, and strong position, of the Apostolic Institution of our Church : We should call the evidence of History to our aid : We should insist upon the uniform practice of the Church, for many ages : We should shew, that we derive our authority to “ preach the Gospel, “ and minister the holy Sacraments in the Congregation,” from the Apostles themselves.

The people will find no difficulty in understanding this, if it be properly explained to them.

We are able to exhibit our Credentials, as “ *Am-
bassadors for Christ*” :—Let the adversaries, who would force themselves into our office, and who pretend