

mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath no reproofs in his mouth (Ps. xxxvii. 14. 15.) I prayed and wept in secret over those deplorable scandals which I was unable to remove.

I saw thousands of well-disposed Catholics in this city distracted and excited by the machinations of less than half a dozen unhappy men. I saw them steadily pursuing their terrible task of scattering the seeds of dissension amongst a long-suffering community. I beheld every thing sacred in religion perverted and abused the precepts of the church utterly disregarded and if some of them entered the temple of the Lord on the Sabbath, they came, not to pray but to scoff—not to adore, but to blaspheme—not to edify, but to disturb an insulted congregation.

Now, I appeal to you as my witnesses and hearers, whether I have not treated even them with a spirit of conciliation and peace. 'Have I not dissembled? Have I not kept silence? Have I not been quiet?' (Job. iii. 26.) Or if I have ventured to admonish, did I not 'reprove and intreat in all patience' (2 Tim. iv. 2.) I confidently ask you whether the whole tenor of my exhortations and conduct was not moderate and peaceful. I ask you whether I left any means untried to restore harmony and peace.

Your prompt and generous vindication, your unanimous resolve, the warmth of your address this day proclaim to my calumniators that I have not forgotten the duties of a minister of peace.

May I be permitted to observe that since my arrival in Halifax I have received the most polite attention and kind hospitality from our worthy fellow citizens of other denominations. This avowal is but a just and grateful tribute to the well known character of this enlightened community. In all my public and private intercourse with the inhabitants I respectfully ask whether I have uttered a sentiment inimical to public harmony, offensive to feeling, or inconsistent with the peaceful character of my sacred profession.

But, to render the calumny on this head more pointed and severe, it has been insinuated that

previously to my arrival amongst you, Halifax was a second Eden, where an even calm perpetually reigned. Alas! it was painfully notorious, both here and in Europe, that such was not the case. The touching description of what you had endured long before my arrival—those scenes over which religion has blushed, and which I have frequently exhorted you to consign to a generous oblivion—proves what is known to every Catholic in Halifax—that up to the very moment of my arrival the most intense excitement prevailed amongst you. Your address reminds me of the quiet and unostentatious manner in which I appeared amongst you, of the olive branch of peace which I constantly held forth; and if I have not achieved more for the restoration of order, the fault rests neither with you nor me. You relinquished the management of the Church Temporalities, you made many sacrifices of feeling, you responded to my wishes and listened to my pacific advice.

Let the blame, therefore, fall where it ought—on the inveterate enemies of peace. 'These are murmurers, full of complaints, walking according to their own desires, and their mouths speaketh proud things, *admiring persons for the sake of gain*. But you my beloved, be mindful of the words which have been spoken before by the Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, who told you that in the last time there should come mockers, walking according to their own desires in ungodliness. But you, my beloved, building yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ' (St. Jude. 16. . 21). Persevere in this blessed course. 'The anger of man worketh not the justice of God' (James i. 20). 'In patience possess your souls' (Luke xxi. 19). 'For unto this are you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving you an example that you should follow his steps. Who, when he was reviled, did not revile. . . . Not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing' (1 Pet. ii. 21, 23, and iii. 9).

Notwithstanding the trials of the last twelve