

THE PAPACY.

BY PROFESSOR KING.

THE title of this Lecture, which has been stated, not by myself, but by those who drew out the plan of this course, may be viewed in two different aspects. It may be taken as a proposition with the affirmative word understood; and which, when fully expressed, would constitute this assertion,—“THE PAPACY is a conspiracy against civil and religious liberty.” Taken in this sense, it would be required that we should lay the subject before you as persons who deny, or who at least may not be prepared to admit the truth of the proposition; and the object would be to establish it by proofs. The other aspect in which the title may be viewed is that in which, according to the plain and simple meaning of the words in which it is expressed, no affirmation is made, but a subject simply is proposed,—“The Papacy—a conspiracy against civil and religious liberty.” It takes it for granted that the Papacy is such a conspiracy, and it wishes you to look at it in this character. Addressing myself, as I understand I am now doing, to Protestants, I shall so far respect the profession under which you appear here as to take it for granted that you have a general understanding of the meaning of that Protest on the ground of which, as adhering to its principles, we are called Protestants. I will not enter upon a formal proof, to which justice could not be done within the compass of a single Lecture. But, in inviting you to look at the object that is thus described, I will endeavour so to pre-