

the dreamer with the witness. Another of these fragments is devoted to the monks of the Great St. Bernard, and the following lines tell us what Rogers *saw* :

Some were almost in their prime,
Nor was a brow o'ercast. Seen as they sate
Ranged round their ample hearth-stone in an hour
Of rest, they were as gay and free from guile
As children ; answering, and at once, to all
The gentler impulses, to pleasure, mirth ;
Mingling, at intervals with rational talk,
Music ; and gatherin'g news from them that came
As of some other worlds. But when the storm
Rose, and the snow rolled on in ocean waves,
When on his face th' experienced traveller fell,
Sheltering his lips and nostrils with his hands,
Then all was changed, and sallying with their pack,
Into that blank of nature, they became
Unearthly beings.

Soothed with the better tone of these lines I close my book, and retired to rest ; and as the moon shone brightly into my room, I pleased myself with the thought that the night of ignorance and prejudice is not so dark in England as it was when this century began its course. We date Catholic Emancipation from 1829. Much of what I have quoted was probably the result of the passions aroused in the heat of the political and religious controversies of those days. Might it not be said that about the same period began Protestant Emancipation from the tyranny of bugbears and hobgoblins ? With a prayer that the delivrance might soon become a complete and universal, I fell asleep.

Next day, in my lonely walk, the memory of what I had read set me brooding, whether the better feelings of the present day might be turned to account. It occurred to me that on other subjects, besides confession and monastic life, I might find Protestant testimony to counteract Protestant accusations, and Protestant candour to answer Protestant prejudice. I chose, not as a likely but as an unlikeby subject, devotion to saints and the use of images. I determined to test my theory on the first opportunity. When next I found myself in a fairly stocked library with a few spare hours, I turned over a number of books. The result I will give in the following chapters.

(To be continued.)