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213



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INTRODUCTORY.

Once more the Church of our Fathers has been exposed to a trial, almost too great, it would seem, for human nature to withstand. Every instrumentality has been employed to divert attention from the points at issue. The Press has been made use of to a large extent, and by the efforts of a few men, labouring assiduously towards the one definite end and purpose, it has been made to appear that the public heart has been stirred to its depths. The taking name of *Union* has been adopted as a word to conjure with, and the fearful and weak-hearted have been terrified into submission before the awful frown of this new idol.

It is by such means as have been adopted in the present case that error has been propagated. Is there any tyranny more despotic than that of a mob, whether that consists of the well-dressed, sleek, white-cravated ecclesiastics, who, as in the days of our Saviour, shout at the dictation of the few who have determined to carry their ends at all costs, or whether it is composed of the ragged and unkempt, looked down upon by sraug respectability as the scum of the earth? Against all such attacks upon the rights of free thought men who think must oppose themselves. "There are," says a well-known writer, "certain states and conditions of affairs, in which a man is bound to speak out and be antagonistic—when conformity is not only a *weakness* but a *sin*. Great evils are in some cases only to be met by resistance; they cannot be wept down, they must be battled down."

It is under such circumstances that we have, in assured trust in a higher power, endeavoured to do our duty, according to the light of our conscience. The periodical which we now present to the Church, is of very humble appearance, but so is the acorn, which gives no indication to the outward sense of the future oak, destined to withstand for centuries the shock of storms