

It is our duty as far as in us lies, to convince them of the truth."

With these remarks we proceed to lay before our readers the article itself.

"We observe that all the Tory Press of the capital, have lately combined in a wanton and simultaneous attack upon the Roman Catholic body, in order, evidently, to get up a quarrel between them and the Protestant Liberals, with a view to their own benefit at the approaching election. They have provoked a violent and rather indiscriminate retaliation from the 'Cross,' never was the organ of the Catholic body, since which they have been using the most strenuous efforts to induce weak-minded Liberals to join them, by insinuating horrible surmises as to what the Catholics will do if they get the upper hand. This is a most barefaced attempt to get up the old and thread-bare, but still most mischievous cry of "no Popery,"—to resurrect the raw head and bloody bones which have ever been held up by those who are opposed to the rights of the people, in order to awe them into quiet submission, so that their pockets can be plundered and their liberties subverted, with the least possible resistance.

"We have never been backward, on all proper occasions, in expressing openly, but we trust in a christian spirit, our clear and conscientious dissent from what we believe to be the errors of the Church of Rome; and if the attacks to which we allude were made for the purpose of clearing or diffusing truth, we should be inclined to use every leniency, in dealing with them, and even to overlook some warmth of expression. But their language is too violent to claim any excuse on this ground, and it is levelled far less at the errors of the Romish Church, than the individuals who profess that system of belief. Besides all this, there is a degree of cowardice in pursuing such a course at the present moment, at which our nature revolts. The Irish Catholics in this Province are suffering the keenest mental distress on account of the horrible famine now raging in their fatherland, and many of them must be conscious that their nearest and dearest friends are probably dying of starvation. And yet this is the time which the Tories of Nova Scotia have chosen, by a series of dastardly attacks through the press, to lash into fury the slumbering, and we had hoped almost extinct elements of religious strife and discord in this Province. Is it not enough that while they are suffering all the horrors of famine and disease, they must have fastened on the vitals of their state against their will that intolerable nuisance, the Irish Established Church,—an insult to their pride as men and their faith as Catholics,—but they must needs be characterized by a part of the Protestant press as low bigots,* and every mean insinuation used to create ill-feeling between them and their fellow-christians, and thus prevent the kindly feelings of the latter from coming to the aid of their suffering countrymen in Ireland.

"Our true position towards Catholics, and all others with whom we differ in religious opinion, is that of extreme kindness; not because we fear them, for we do not believe they have either the will or the power to injure us, but because while they believe us to be in error, we believe the same of them, and while we are ready to extend to them liberty of conscience, we think that it is our duty as far as in us lies, to convince them of the truth. We should show them first by our fruits of long suffering kindness and love, even to our enemies, that we are indeed members of the heavenly vine, and thus we should open their hearts to the admission of that divine truth by which our own conduct in such cases would evidently be influenced. Our example of forbearance and kindness would thus have a two-fold effect. It would not only enforce our precepts and arguments, but it would prepare the way before them by breaking down that wall of division, which ages of tyranny and religious persecution have raised between the Catholics of Ireland and their Protestant brethren.

"It is with extreme regret that we perceive the Tory press resorting to such base means to avert that annihilation as a party which must inevitably come upon them. Not that this manoeuvre can injure our position, or benefit theirs in the slightest degree, for it is too transparent and has been tried too

often, to deceive the most simple, but because it exhibits to us human nature in one of its most hideous attitudes—endeavouring to light the fierce and enduring fires of religious strife, for a selfish and temporary purpose, ready to sacrifice the truth of the Gospel and its blessed fruits of charity and love, at the unholy shrine of personal ambition and political profligacy.

X.

THE REPENTANT "CRIMINAL" OF THE GUARDIAN.

"Our Readers need not be greatly surprised to find us very soon locked in each others arms, and see the Editor of the *Cross* carrying the Editor of the *Guardian*, as if he had already become a Babe of grace, one of the wandering sheep which he had brought home to the true fold on his shoulders."—*Guardian*, March 5.

Here are symptoms of repentance, which in a criminal so "aggravated" we must contemplate with pleasure. Better late, than never. Who knows but this poor prodigal may return to his Father, and this wandering sheep to the true fold! We have no doubt that he will be kindly received, and that this beauteous Babe, this tender lambkin will be carried home as safely as possible to the peaceful fold from which his fathers so unhappily strayed away. But other shoulders than ours must bear this precious burthen. All we, poor sinners, can do, is to *pray* for this erratic sheep. To other, and more sacred hands, whose special duty it is, we leave the task of grasping the pastoral staff, and drawing into the fold 'by hook or by crook' this hapless wanderer. We are sure that if there be any reasonable hopes of catching by the head or tail, 'an old sheep-whistling rogue, and ram tender' of this description, one of the 'hot-headed young men, imported from Ireland' would immediately go in quest of him, notwithstanding all the wanton abuse he has heaped upon them. A very large bottle of 'holy water' would, we should think, be required on the occasion, to exorcise the Rambling spirit that possesses him; and after a copious sprinkling of this, he might be safely carried home to St. Mary's without any danger of accidents on the way. If he could by any means gain admission amongst the 'olden monks at the Glebe' we promise him from what we have heard of the comfortable quarters there, that he might go farther and fare worse.'

Of the five hundred thousand Emigrants who arrived in the United States during the last year, it is computed that three fourths are Catholics.

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* See Morning Post, 23rd ult.