

THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

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ed forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom the world is Crucified to me, and I to the world.—St. Paul, Gal. vi. 14.

EXETER, DECEMBER 27, 1845.

CALENDAR.

- DEC. 28—Sunday—Feast of the Holy Innocents.
 — 29—Monday—St. Thomas, Bishop and Martyr.
 — 30—Tuesday—Of the first Sunday after the Nativity.
 — 31—Wednesday—St Sylvester, Pope and Confessor.
 JAN. 1—Thursday—Circumcision of our Lord—(Holyday of obligation.)
 — 2—Friday—Octavo of St. Stephen.
 — 3—Saturday—Octave day of St John the Apostle.

CHRISTMAS TIDE AT ROME.

This great festival is celebrated with peculiar solemnity in the capital of the Christian world. The Pope, if his health permits, offers the Holy Sacrifice three times—first, at St Mary Major's, next, at the ancient church of St Anastasia, and finally in St Peter's at the Vatican. The crib of our Lord is preserved with religious veneration at St Mary Major's, and beside this precious relic, the Pope and the whole Sacred College commence the Festival of Christmas by the chaunting of Matins on the night before. After the *Te Deum* at midnight his Holiness celebrates the first Mass, in *nocte Nativitatis*. At the close of this Mass the Lauds of Christmas are sung. At break of day a *Station* is held at the church of St Anastasia, of whom a commemoration is made in *secunda Missa ad Auroram*: The anniversary of her glorious martyrdom occurs on the 25th of December. Finally, the third Mass in *Die* which is the most solemn of the entire, is celebrated at St Peter's.

But, not only the Head of the Church, but all the priests of the Catholic world have the inestimable privilege of thrice offering up the Aderable Sacrifice on this auspicious day. It is not wonderful that Christmas enjoys a privilege unknown to the other festivals of the year, or that 'the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world' should be repeatedly offered to his Father in behalf of the emancipated victims whom he has redeemed from the slavery of hell.

But, although the Priest may offer the Holy Sacrifice at twelve o'clock on Christmas Eve, the people cannot approach the Holy Communion at the midnight Mass. By the most stringent decrees of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, it is forbidden to communicate the lady until day-light appears.

The Right Rev Dr Wiseman has addressed a Circular Letter to the French Bishops in which he implores their pious prayers, and those of the clergy and people, for the conversion of England to the Catholic Faith. This pathetic appeal has been already answered in various quarters, and the entire clergy of many French dioceses have offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for this pious purpose.

RONGEISM.

Notwithstanding the repeated boastings of some of the English journals respecting the success of Ronge, the German apostate, it is certain that the