

she is not indifferent to their spread ; and she will at all times use such lawful means as shall be found most effectual for the propagation of truth and the destruction of error. She knows of no error which is not more or less associated with crime, and she asserts that every principle is injurious in proportion as it is false. Heresy she inserts in her catalogue of mortal sins ; she en'dures it when and where she must, but she hates it, and directs all her energies to effect its destruction."

It has been charged by Protestants that the spread of Romanism would tend to the overthrow of religious freedom in our land. Hear the editor on this subject :

"The practical toleration to which we are accustomed in our age and country, is not a result of any principle of Protestantism ; it is not the consequence of any doctrine ; it has been brought about by the force of circumstances ; it is owing to the fact that no denomination can pretend to exclusive dominion ; it will last only so long as this state of things continues. If the Infidels, the Mormons, the Presbyterians, or the Catholics at any future time, gain a decided supremacy, it is at an end.

"If the Catholics ever gain—which they surely will do, though at a distant day—an immense numerical superiority, religious freedom in this country is at an end. So say our enemies. So we believe it."

Look again, Christian reader, at this avowal of a leading organ of the Papacy in our own republic: "*If the Catholics ever gain an immense numerical superiority, religious freedom in this country is at an end.*" Have their most determined opponents ever charged anything more ? No wonder that he closes his article in the following strain :

"We have said that we are not the advocate of religious freedom, and we repeat it, we are not. The liberty to believe contrary to the teachings of the Church, is the liberty to believe a lie ; the liberty to think otherwise than as she permits, is the liberty to abuse the mind, and pollute the imagination ; from such liberty may we and those we love at all times be preserved !"

But as if this article was not sufficiently strong he adds another in the same issue. The *Mirror*, a paper advocating Romanism in England, published an article avowing that the Church was and ought to be intolerant—that all declamation about liberty of conscience, and religious worship, uttered by Catholics, was designed to deceive Protestants, and that a man had no more right to own his religious opinions, than he had to the money in his neighbour's pocket. This article the editor of the *Shepherd of the Valley* defends ! He says that it was "*probably imprudent but certainly correct.*" He adds :

"Certainly it is news to us that the man who defends the civil punishment of heresy, advocates an anti-Catholic or anti-social doctrine. Our forefathers did not think so, and we are not better than our fathers. The American Catholic of the nineteenth century is not likely to be more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of his religion, than the European Christian of the ages of faith. The nineteenth century has no lesson of charity to teach the disciples of a St. Thomas, a St.