

THE CROSS.

God 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.

VOL. 1.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1843.

No. 17.

Weekly Calendar.

June 25—Sunday, St. William, Ab. of York.
26—Monday, SS. John and Paul, M. M.
27—Tuesday, St. Leo, P. C.
28—Wednesday, Vigil SS. Peter and Paul.
29—Thursday, SS. Peter and Paul, Aps.
30—Friday, Com. of St. Paul, Ap.
July 1—Saturday, Octave of St. John Baptist

Ceremonies of the Catholic Church.

ACCOUNT OF THE PAPAL BENEEDICTION.

From the recent Letters of Mr. Aldrich, a Protestant, to the Editor of an American Periodical.

One must come to Rome fully to comprehend the boundless influence which the Catholic Church possesses over her adherents. Here, in her stately temples, in the presence of beautiful forms, the divine creations of genius, in which her creed is embodied and shadowed forth, the enlightened traveller, be his religious opinions what they may, cannot withhold the homage of admiration for much that is excellent in her character.*

The Catholic Church is far from being what its enemies would have the world believe; and, although I do not purpose an essay in her defence—for-

*It may be well enough to remark that, although St. Peter's is the only church here much heard of out of Italy, there are more than a hundred other churches in Rome, any one of which would make the boast of any other city.

unately she has no need of so feeble a champion—yet it may be well, at a time when she has so many illiberal assailants, to state a few simple truths in regard to subjects which have been sadly misrepresented and misunderstood. An opinion generally prevails in Protestant countries that the ceremonies of the Catholic Church are not consonant to the spirit of religion, and that they greatly tend to encourage superstition. Now, all of her external rites, so far as I have observed, are well adapted, as they are intended, for religious instruction and the melioration of the heart. How much has been foolishly written and spoken against the ornaments of Catholic churches, sculpture, painting, and architecture, and against its music too, all of which seem to be the natural aids of religion to one who has been in a situation to experience their effects; they take hold of the imagination, awaken memory, engage the affections—even the soul itself. These things are regarded only as aids to devotion, and what greater aids could be imagined? They are, in fact, sermons more eloquent than ever came from the lips of the preacher. Are ordinary ministers vain enough to suppose that they can preach a discourse on the Crucifixion or the Transfiguration as eloquent and effective as Raphaels? or a sermon on the Last Judgment equal to Michael Angelo's, in the Sistine Chapel? I have heard scores of sermons upon