

# THE CROSS.



NEW

SERIES.

VOL. 3.

No. 15.

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.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 6, 1847.

## CALENDAR.

- NOVEMBER 7—Sunday—XXIV after Pent, III Novena Semid  
vide V. post Epiph.
- 8—Monday—Octavo of all Saints Doub.
- 9—Tuesday—Dedication of our Saviour's Church  
at St John Lateran Doub cl with Oct.
- 10—Wednesday—St. Andrew Avellimus C. Doub.
- 11—Thursday—St Martin B C. Doub Com.
- 12—Friday—St Martin I P. M. Doub.
- 13—Saturday—St Nicholas I P. C. Doub Sup.

## A CELIBATE CLERGY

We have been induced to make the following further extracts from the pamphlet by the Rev P. McLachlan on the Celibacy of the Clergy.

As far as the priests are concerned, I cannot see how their being unmarried can turn their instructions into a source of sin or of discomfort to any family. Scandalous men will sometimes arise among priests as well as among parsons; but the general character of our priesthood is one of which any body of men may be proud. Forget the ravings of Exeter Hall—banish from your mind the slanders you have read in novels, or in some lying books of travels relative to the Catholic Church, and then say, have you ever had good reason to think ill of that portion of your fellow-men? No traveller, worthy of credit, but will bear witness to the purity of morals so remarkable among the priests of every Catholic Country on the Continent. I appeal to yourself, did you ever see anything peculiarly bad in those men in Italy, France, or Portugal? With his usual candour Mr. Laing is loud in their praise. Among other things he says, "Our clergy, especially in Scotland, have a very erroneous impression of the Popish clergy. In our country churches we often hear them prayed for as men wallowing in luxury, and sunk in gross ignorance. This is somewhat injudicious as well as uncharitable, for when the youth of their congregations, who, in this travelling age, must often come in contact abroad with the

Catholic clergy so described, find them, in learning, liberal views, and in genuine piety according to their own doctrines, so very different from the description and the descriptors, there will unavoidably arise comparisons, by no means edifying to their very clerical teachers at home." The late Capt. Hamilton and Mr. Stewart, in their works on America, and Lord Durham on his official report on Canada, speak highly of the Catholic clergy with whom they came in contact. Lord Normanby eulogized, in the house of Lords, the priests of Ireland; and the Duke of Einster, who knows them well, having his ducal palace almost at the very gates of Maynooth, confirmed all Lord Normanby had said, and added some things which had escaped the attention of the noble viceroy.

The character, then of the Catholic priesthood, is generally good;—it is unimpeachable. Well then, I ask you, will their being unmarried men, turn them, when they sit down in the confessional, into those monsters of vice some people are pleased to represent them? Being decidedly virtuous, on a thousand occasions when their might indulge in vice with impunity, can we reasonably believe that they depart from their habitually virtuous conduct in that particular spot, where crime would immediately be detected and punished.

One proof, therefore, that Celibacy and the Confessional are not destructive of peace and comfort may be drawn, as you see, from the esteem in which the priests are held, even by the enemies of their creed: another and a stronger one will be found in the love and veneration which all good Catholics have for their clergy. Indeed, in the eyes of Protestants, Catholics love their clergy to a fault. With this fault the Catholics of Ireland are sometimes severely taunted blame, however, they do not deserve. The priests are everywhere the true friends of the people, for them they live,—for them they labour,—for them and for their souls' sake, the priests make many sacrifices—sometimes that of life itself. They spring from the people,—they live among the people,—they know the popular wants, and these they endeavour to supply. Serving all, instructing all,—edifying all,—helping all in their needs, they are natural-