

*PROTESTANTISM VERSUS  
CATHOLICISM.*

Our Church is both protestant and catholic. Her articles and formulae shew how vigorously she protests against the errors of the Church of Rome, and of all forms of more modern addition to or subtraction from the faith and practice of the Primitive Church. She is therefore Catholic also, as we shall now attempt to show, by rejecting that sort of protestantism which consists of mere negations.

Human life in this world is too short to afford time, whilst the day of grace and probation lasts, to allow ourselves to be bewildered amongst many differing counsellors as to the narrow way which leadeth unto life. Doubt leads to willing delay, and at length to indifference and ultimate infidelity, and therefore it is not marvellous that Satan, the world and the flesh are opposed to the creeds and rules of God's Church.

A literary man of great ability, in San Francisco, having been educated without definite religious training, in order that he might choose a religion for himself, became an infidel, like so many others who are taught that "one religion is as good as another." Finding no spiritual comfort or consolation for his own soul, in denying or ridiculing the humble faith of others, he at length, by God's grace, was led to embrace

the faith of our Church, of which he afterwards became a most able and eloquent clergyman. He thus summarizes the vague teachings of mere un-catholic protestantism,—if we may be permitted to coin a word expressing vagueness and inability to guide a soul in search of truth, but bewildered among many counsellors.

Protestantism of this sort, he says, teaches

1. That Christ left a Church on earth, but no particular Church.
2. In this Church He ordained sacraments, but no particular sacraments.
3. A ministry, but no particular ministry.
4. Religious truths, but no particular religious truths.
5. A Lord's Day, but no particular Lord's Day.
6. A way of salvation, but no particular way of salvation.

This is Broad Churchism carried to its logical conclusion. It has charity for everything but humble, primitive faith. In this sort of system, as it teaches that Christ left no particular Church on earth, it is impossible to obey Christ's command,—“Hear the Church.” Every man is a Church in himself, and an infallible pope in himself. Thus, instead of all being one, the flock of Christ becomes a herd of heathen men and publicans, in a spiritual sense.

If Christ has ordained no particular sacraments, it is no sin to refuse