

AGE
45
46
49
49
50
50
50
51
51
51

Dedication to our Protestant Friends.

51
51
52
52
52
52
52
53

53
54
54

56

56
56
57
58
59
60
60

61
61
62
62
63

64
65

66
67
67
68
68

68
69
69
70
70
71

71
72

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—During a missionary career of over thirty years, from the Gulf of Mexico to Lake Ontario, we have met with many estimable persons, who were most anxious to acquire the knowledge of truth which would lead them most securely to eternal life. They believed in our Lord Jesus Christ as their Redeemer, but were afraid to join any of the modern religious denominations, lest they might not find in them all that Christ taught. They respected all, believing that they contained many pious people; yet, distrusting their own powers of examining and pronouncing which was the true or which was the false, they hesitated to join any.

We asked those persons if they ever examined the doctrines of the Catholic Church, acknowledged by all to be the first; they said no; they were taught and believed from their infancy that that Church was most corrupt in its doctrines and practices. We inquired from what source they drew their information, from its friends or enemies; they said, that they had never spoken to a Catholic Priest before, or read a Catholic book. Then, we replied, would you not like, as a just man, before pronouncing judgment, to give fair play, and hear the other side of the question? We further remarked that there were a great many respectable and good-living Catholics who would leave that Church, if it were so corrupt as they supposed. We, certainly, would not belong to it; that, in fact, if it were so corrupt and pernicious, the country should rise up and petition the Government to have the Catholics removed from it.

We found so much misconception concerning Catholic doctrines, and consequently prejudices, that we considered it due to truth and honour to explain. 1st. What was *not* the faith of Catholics; and, 2nd, what they do actually believe. The knowledge of truth must do good. By the force of a good principle implanted in our hearts by our Divine Lord we yearn after it; when we find it our souls rejoice; and, again, when we are delivered from a false impression or idea we find relief. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour," is one of the commandments of a just God, who wills that we be respected not only in our property but also in our reputation. Many bear false witness (we hope unwittingly) to the faith and practices of the Catholic Church. If we