

What boy has not had his curiosity excited when happy to steal into the vestibule of St. Mary's, he looked into the font of holy water which is stationed there, and wondered what in the world could be the use of it. Now, without attempting to resolve at length the boy's wonder, Papists themselves admit that the thing itself and the use of it was adopted from Pagan worship. It was known that at the entrance of heathen temples there was a vase of holy water placed for the worshippers to sprinkle themselves withal, and this custom was so necessary a part of their religious service that the method of excommunication seems to have been, by prohibiting to offenders the approach and use of the holy water. Were it not that there is much to overtake on this part of the subject it might not be amiss to advert to some of the uses to which holy water is applied. That it is employed by Papists themselves on entry and leaving Chapel to sprinkle themselves with, every body knows. That the sprinkling of the people by the Priest on certain of the festivals of the Church is as well known, but it may not be so well known, and it deserves to be known, that it is solemnly sprinkled on the inferior animals, who along with this efficacious watering receive the equally efficacious blessing of the Priest. A recent writer who was well qualified to pronounce on the subject writes as follows in relation to the ceremony: "If I could lead my readers on the 17th of January to the Church of St. Antoine in Rome, I am convinced they would not know whether to laugh at the ridiculous religious performances, or weep over the heathenish practices of the Church of Rome. He would see a Priest in his sacerdotal garments with a stole over his neck and a brush in his right hand sprinkling the mules, horses, and asses, with holy water, and praying for them and *with them*, in order to be preserved the whole year from sickness and death and famine and hunger, for the sake and merits of the holy