THE CONFEDERATE CLERGY.

The Evangelical Magazine, which in August contained the Address of the Confederate Clergy, this month publishes the following observations on that document:—‘Startling phenomena sometimes occur in the moral world: doctrines are taught which come into violent collision with our most cherished convictions; and arguments are employed in favour of those doctrines which, if they do not bewilder by their ingenuity, at least astonish by their boldness. And when around all this there is thrown an atmosphere of the most sacred devotion—the most reverent recognition of revelation, of God, of eternity, and of the value of the human soul—it requires a clear vision to perceive, as well as some degree of energy to declare, that the whole thing is fallacious, deceptive, and sophistical. It is hard, perhaps, thus to characterize the production of men who most solemnly appeal to the heart-searching God and to the judgment of the great day for the truth of their statements; yet we must so characterize the Address to Christians throughout the World, by the clergy of the Confederate States. This remarkable paper—remarkable for its style, its intense earnestness, and its clearness of statement—has been before the country for some time, and inserted among advertisements in religious magazines: as if those who are responsible for its publication had determined to spare no effort and no expense to get it under the eye of every class of people in the country. For this, of course, we have neither the right nor the disposition to blame them. The press is open; truth cannot be excluded; and a document signed by the ruling clergy of all denominations in the Confederate States ought to be carefully pondered by Englishmen, if it were only out of courtesy.

We have read this extraordinary manifesto with great care, and not without the deepest wonder. When we find ministers of the Word we find ministers of the Gospels, who do not press Christian duties with the simplicity and earnestness of the first preachers of the Gospel. They are determined to maintain the interests of the Southern States, and to show the world that the Southern people are not to be trifled with. They would have us believe that the declaration of a separation of the Southern States is a deliberate and final act, and that the Confederate Government is a fact, promising in no respect a restoration of the former Union. This amounts merely to the declaration of a determination on the part of the Southern people to hold the war waged against them in their favour. They proceed to tell us cautiously approaching that which is the burden of their prophecy, and they are determined to maintain the anti-slavery sentiment of the country. They would have us believe that the proclamation of the President of the United States, sealing the emancipation of the slaves of the South, is, in their judgment, a suitable occasion for solemn protest on the part of the people of the North. We have no right to look upon this as a war between the North and South. Upon this we are not to judge from the Northern policy in issuing the proclamation, the idea of the people of God protesting against it in the way the writers indicate is monstrous in the extreme. Having broken ground, the writers adduce 'arguments with a boldness which is to us most astonishine, elaborate arguments in favour of the system of slavery. Abolitionism is a ridiculous error;' and Scripture is quoted—'Let us therefore consider one another in the presence of God.' The Confederate clergy produce their authority—‘These things teach and exhort.’

The Address of the Confederate Clergy is a most interesting document, and we hope it will be carefully read and considered. It is a call to the Christian world to unite in the support of the Southern States, and to maintain the interests of the country. We are confident that the Address will be received with the highest estimation by all who are disposed to do justice to the cause of the South. We are convinced that the Address is a true representation of the sentiments of the Southern people, and we trust that it will be received with the highest consideration by all who are disposed to do justice to the cause of the South.