

of the lowest and most degraded type. So far as concerns the congregation of the Martin Luther Church, or the audience who assemble elsewhere to see Widows ridicule the Mass, or listen to his obscene slander of the morals of the Catholic priesthood, no one need trouble very much whether they continue in their delusions or not. But the case is very different when a public authority allows such a man the use of its premises for the purpose of his vile trade. The Acton School Board, which recently committed this enormity, comprises among its members the rector of the Acton parish, the Vicar of one of the principal churches in the neighborhood, and the minister of an important non-Conformist chapel. In fairness to these gentlemen I assume that they did what they did in complete ignorance of the true history of Nobbs, alias Widows. But whether done in ignorance or not, their patronage of the man reflects little credit upon either the Protestant or the Anglican denominations, whose cause presumably they supposed that they were serving. Every well-wisher to Protestantism must deplore its association with unscrupulous adventurers of the Widows' type, and I think it is to the interest of Protestantism, far more than of Roman Catholicism, that the truth about this despicable black-guard should be known.

THE DEVIL'S PLANS.

What Satan Would Do if He Could Have Things His Own Way.

The following letter from a retired pastor recently appeared in the New York Freeman's Journal:

I am a retired pastor, slowly dying in my brother's home, which overlooks the city from a distant hill. Through life, I have gathered some experiences from men and things; and, with joyful heart, I long for the coming dawn of a more glorious day. In these leisure hours, I often meditate upon the fierce struggle going on between the children of light and the spirit of darkness; and I pray that men may rightly estimate the strength of Satan, and know full well his tactics.

The question often arises in my mind, "What means would Satan use to destroy religion and morality, were God to give him unlimited power?" It seems to me that his plan of campaign would be somewhat as follows:

A glance at the houses of ill repute would convince him of the evil they produce; and I don't think that he could make any improvement, except, perhaps, to spread them more widely through the city so as to reach more virtuous and retired portions. But even this would have its disadvantages; for it would lessen the facility with which men can now find the open door to corruption and ruin.

What is said of these houses holds true of gambling dens.

Saloons, by day and night, do good and faithful work for Satan. He would doubtless multiply them, and leave no corner without its drinking resort. He would locate them near to schools and churches; and in increase their attractions by the addition of wine rooms, buffets, parlors and dance halls.

Politicians would need but little readjustment. The bribes they are said to receive, the deceptions they practice, and the slanders they propagate, debar conscientious men from their ranks. Robbing the public they adore honesty; and, stealing much, make no restitution.

State and public eleemosynary institutions are filled with politicians and their appointees; and hence, no improvement would be called for.

Public schools, as now managed, teach all things but religion. Now religion is the only thing in education to which the devil objects. Hence, while encouraging Public Schools, he would destroy, if possible, all denominational schools. In these private schools alone, pupils are trained to live well, and are made defenders of Church and State. To weaken the efficiency of Catholic teaching, Satan would oppose, with great force, those large and efficient orders of women such as the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Visitation Order, the Sisters of Providence, and the Ladies of the Sacred Heart.

Colleges of men would feel the full force of Satan's wrath. In these seats of learning, liberal education is imparted, which fits men for the learned professions, and for honorable positions among the diocesan and regular clergy.

The secular newspapers are fast becoming a species of moral sewers carrying along, in the sight of all, the hidden iniquities of many. The better to familiarize the young and innocent with vice in all its forms, Satan would bribe the editors to illustrate the papers the more vividly with nude figures, and with the desperate deeds of criminals.

The great city department and notion stores cater enough to vanity and luxury. Satan would place upon the counters large quantities of vile novels, lewd pictures, infidel literature.

Our Protestant churches have gradually degenerated into pleasant centers of social life, and the preachers into amiable sensationists. The result is entirely satisfactory to Satan. Children receive no religious instruction in school, and parents hear no word of God. In consequence, 50,000,000 of our American people have been un-church'd.

The Catholic Church is Satan's danger. By every means, fair or foul, open and secret, he would assail her. He studies her most vulnerable points, and essays to sow discord and jealousies

between prelates and prelates, priests and people. He plays upon every passion, and upon every prejudice of race and section. He would assign, if possible, to every parish an unworthy pastor—covetous, idle, incapable of preaching, fond of comfortable living. Religious orders of men and women strain toward perfection by an observance of Christ's characteristics—poverty, chastity and obedience. Hence these orders have always been the pride of the Church, and the apple of her divine eye. What with their incessant rounds of educational works, missions, novenas, special devotions and prayers, they keep Satan in perpetual alarm. In self defence, then, he would turn against them his heaviest engines. He would raise up against them, from above and below, in Church and State, powerful and bitter enemies; and so blind them that, in persecuting the religious, they would imagine themselves doing the work of God.

Prohibited secret societies are productive of infinite evil, chiefly because, openly and by insinuations, they teach that nature, as opposed to divine grace, is all-powerful for man's elevation and perfection. The final object of worship and adoration in these societies is humanity and personal license. The honor of God, the observance of the commandments, the necessity of supernatural means and aids, are made light of, if not entirely scorned. In the lodges of these societies are congregated business men of easy morals, with whom intimate association entails religious indifference and moral insensibility. Catholics who enter these societies are, apart from excommunication, gradually alienated from Christ; and learn to place their hope of happiness in the lodge rather than in the church. For these many reasons, Satan would induce, if possible, all Catholics, to join at least one of these societies, that of the Free Masons preferred.

"Women Clubs" and "Benefit Societies" offer an opportunity to Satan. These associations take women from home duties, instil boldness, lessen devotion and develop criticism of Bishops and priests. Women's mutual benefit associations are inclined to follow dubious methods in forming new branches and in admitting members. In financial management they are apt to be reckless and extravagant, and when these associations fail, scandal shall follow and ecclesiastical advisers be impugned.

A great danger for the Church, and for individual souls, lies in conformity with the world. "Be not conformed with the world." We can understand, then, the endeavor of Satan to dilute Catholic faith; to make it so broad, tolerant and popular that essential truths fade into hazy opinions. We understand his endeavor to silence the watchmen on the tower, and to hide in the background all talk and discussion of the absolute necessity of membership in the Catholic Church. His partial success in this work is the real cause of the small number of converts. The plain truth must be told. Let it shock the reaction will bring spiritual conversion. It is unreasonable to suppose that Protestants will enter the church for any reason save that of necessity of salvation. With infinite gentleness, sweetness, charity and God-like love, let the shocking truth be told. If the truth be hidden, then Protestants will remain satisfied with their pleasant errors, and Catholics become dissatisfied with divine truths. The Catholic American is a man broad-minded and tolerant in public affairs, in business life and in social requirements; but, in matters of faith, like the Church, he knows no compromise. He views with scorn any movement which can end only in weakening Catholic faith, in Protestantizing Catholics and dereligionizing Protestants. Only that which is human can be the object of the world's love, service and admiration. The Church and her defenders cannot always be popular. The devil must and does use the world to destroy the strength of faith and religion. But, faith gone, all is lost; and the old heathen passions rule again—mammon, lust, ambition and revenge. The old saying has it: "Forewarned, arm ourselves with prayer, deep study, and sanctity of life."

Our beautiful and life-giving Catholic faith in America, trampled by no kingly despot, weakened by no compromising applause-seekers may it spread, and grow and flourish in the hearts of our people, Catholic and non-Catholic, and bring forth in due season fruits of eternal justice and happiness.

THE NUPTIAL MASS.

The Church has appointed a manner, a form, in which all should receive this sacrament of matrimony. See in what estimation she holds it. She would have the holy nuptials of her children with all religious pomp and ceremony. It is so sacred in her eyes that she bids her priest sing a solemn Mass of Benediction and joy, clothed in his most precious robes. She would have the sanctuary adorned, as if for a high festival, and to honor and reverence this sacrament she interrupts the sacred ritual to bestow her fruitful and hallowing blessings. The only other occasion on which she does this is in the ordination of her priests. Then, and then only, does she grant the Nuptial Benediction to the married pair, and those who are not thus married never receive it. Custom to the contrary, so much to be lamented, does not make up the deficiency, and heavenly graces are simply rejected as if they were of little or no worth. What would you think if the priest would simply baptize your chil-

dren with plain water, and omit all the prayers, exorcisms and holy unctions appointed for the solemn administration of that sacrament? You would not be content, and you would be scandalized, at the priest's want of obedience to the Church and his want of respect for so holy a rite.—Catholic Columbian.

THE EVANGELICAL COUNSELS

We seem to hear in the Pope's letter on Americanism the lament of the Psalmist: *Dominatæ sunt veritates a filii hominum.* ("Truths are decayed from among the sons of men.") The spirit of the age seems to be hostile to the Evangelical Counsels. These Counsels, as their name implies, are not matters of law or precept, but are given by way of advice and counsel to those who wish to become perfect in the practice of virtue and in the following of Christ. The Christian virtues are binding on all. To be poor in spirit, clean of heart, charitable to the needy, is necessary for all, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, clergy and laity. But it is not expected of all that they should sacrifice their whole store for the benefit of the poor; that they should of their own accord raise up a sacred barrier between themselves and the innocent joys of domestic life; that they should devote their whole being to the service and relief of destitute or suffering humanity.

That is the privilege of a few chosen souls who aspire to something higher in the service of God than falls to the lot of common mortals; who are prompted by divine impulse to raise above the beaten path, to lift themselves from our common earth and soar aloft.

These are they whose hearts give ready entrance to God's grace, and are effectually stirred by its gentle pleadings to receive with welcome and delight the invitation of the great Teacher, "Be you perfect, as also your Heavenly Father is perfect." In these words it is no longer Patriarch or Prophet, nor Saint of the Old or New Law, but the Holiness of the Divine Nature—a holiness without end or limit—that is given us as the standard for our imitation. And there never have been wanting in the world, from the first days of Christianity, those who heard and obeyed this Heavenly summons to perfection, or to the ceaseless striving after it. Some of them died in their quiet cell; others in the gloom of a dungeon; not a few of them by the ignominious hand of the executioner. But their memory is in blessing; and that glory before men, which they shunned during life, has become their portion after death. They wrought wonderful things in their zeal and charity, for the glory of God and the welfare of their fellow-men. They were benefactors of mankind; they exceeded all that can be claimed for Pagan and worldly heroes, for the sages and legislators of ancient and modern times. Their names will be remembered and cherished by faithful, loving hearts, long after those of the Cæsars, Napoleons, shall Bismarcks and Gladstones have faded away from the memory of man. Nor should it be forgotten that it was principally from this class that Divine Providence chose the holy and great men who under God called this country out of the darkness of heathenism into the marvelous light of Christian truth and knowledge; that kept alive in their cells the torch of science during the ages of darkness; that reclaimed the waste spots and deserts of a great part of Europe; that gave her all that is wise and Christian in her laws and institutions; that were the real founders of whatever there yet remains of good and valuable—in a world, all that is yet undepraved and unheathenized—in the civilization of Europe and America.

Men who make profession of Christianity, and ignore or deride the Evangelical Counsels, have either never read the Gospel, or have forgotten its teachings; or what is too often the case with those who are loudest in denouncing "the traditions of men," have learned their Christianity, not from God's holy, unadulterated Word, but from those very "traditions" of fallible men, which they affect to despise. It is impossible to peruse with the slightest degree of attention the Gospel narrative, or the Epistles of the Apostles, and not find there these Counsels clearly laid down, and not only praised but warmly recommended to Christians for practice. Perfect chastity, self denial, mortification, fasting, voluntary austerities; the taking up of our cross of our own accord, instead of waiting till Providence lay it on our unwilling shoulders; the renouncing of father, mother, brother, sister, and all worldly goods, the more readily to follow Christ—surely, these are all sayings with which every reader of the Gospel should be well acquainted, and even the unlettered who hear them read occasionally. The Evangelical Counsels will flourish as long as the Church of God lives, and that will be till the end of time.—American Herald.

They Speak for Themselves. PICTON, Feb. 17.—This is to certify that I have used Paley's Nerviline for rheumatism, and have found it a valuable remedy for all internal pain, and would greatly recommend it to the public.—N. T. KINGSLEY.

LEEDS COUNTY, Jan. 9.—We are not in the habit of puffing patent medicines, but we cannot withhold our testimony as to the great value of Nerviline as a remedy for pain. We have pleasure in recommending it as a never failing remedy.—REV. H. J. ALLEN, BENJ. DILLON, and many others. Sold by druggists.

TAKE ONLY the best when you need a medicine. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best blood purifier, nerve and stomach tonic. Get Hood's.

SERVING GOD FROM THE HEART.

On Palm Sunday we are reminded of that hour in the life of Our Lord on earth in which He was receiving from the people of His own nation all the honor they could render him. He then entered the chosen city of God in triumph over all who opposed Him. Thousands surrounded him, went before Him and followed Him. They strewed the road before Him with their own clothing and with the branches of trees, that they might thus make His entry into Jerusalem as glorious as possible.

In a few days, when He had been arrested by His enemies, where was this great crowd? Where were those who had cried out so fervently, "Hosanna to the Son of David?" But few could there be found. The rest had either deserted Him or joined in with the crowd that mocked Him even while He was dying on the Cross. Nearly all had abandoned Him in the day of His adversity. The first test of their faith in Him, the first trial that proved the strength of their love for Him, found them entirely wanting in that characteristic of true love, fidelity to the end.

Is it impossible for us to do as they did? No; it is not impossible, for many who are Catholics born and bred do the same thing now.

But who are these? They are those who fail to keep the Ten Commandments of God and the precepts and laws of the Church. Every Catholic who breaks the Commandments of God and refuses to obey the laws of the Church does worse than those did who deserted Our Lord when He was condemned and crucified. With their lips they declare they are Catholics, and in this way cry out "Hosanna to the Son of David," but in their hearts and lives they live and associate with the enemies of Christ.

These men are worse than the others simply because they received the graces of Christ in their baptism, in their Confirmation, in their first Communion as well as in their many Communion thereafter. In Communion they receive Our Lord Himself, the Lord of eternal glory Who is eternal life itself. These have been, in truth, members of the Kingdom, of heaven, but have cast themselves out by not keeping the Commandments of God, by not obeying the laws of the Church. Truly does the Scripture say of many of them: "He that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead." For dead many of them are apparently—dead eternally. They seem to be in the spiritual slumber of eternal death. They appear to be eternally judged; their eternal fate already sealed.

Nothing can move their hearts to return to God. Missions, sermons, exhortations, threatenings, warnings, counsels, the prayers and entreaties of fathers, mothers, kindred, and friends are all unheeded by them, are all in vain. Even the tears of their fathers and mothers, and the blushes of shame whenever they are alluded to by friends, have no effect upon them, none whatever. They will not return to God.

Poor souls! Remember that whatever excuse you make to yourself, this is true, that those who keep the Commandments and the laws of the Church show they are the true friends of Our Lord; those who do not keep them show to all in heaven and earth that they are His enemies. We have but one sure and positive test of our love for Our Lord. The Ten Commandments and the laws of the Church constitute that test. All who really love Him keep this faithfully. "If you love Me," said Our Lord, "keep My commandments." All who do not love Him break them and disregard them. God Himself is not their friend. They have no part in the triumphs of Our Lord on that day. It is true they cry out with us, "Hosanna to the Son of David," but in their lives they side with His enemies and crucify Our Lord.—Sacred Heart Review.

BEHAVIOR AT MASS.

We gather from the gospels that our Divine Saviour frequented the Jewish Temple. Whenever He came to Jerusalem, His first visit was to the Temple, and while He remained in the City of Sion most of His time was passed in the Temple. This, the great sanctuary of the Old Dispensation, was, without doubt, the true Temple of God, and our Blessed Lord loved its courts; for here alone was His Heavenly Father truly known and glorified among men. And, although the Old Law was soon to be superseded by the New, and the Temple and its sacrifices were to pass away forever, yet the Divine Redeemer jealously guarded its honor to the last. He could not tolerate the least irreverence or profanation within its sacred precincts.

If you recollect, the only time that our meek and gentle Lord gave way to angry indignation, and acted with downright severity, was when He found the buyers and sellers in the Temple. Inflamed with holy zeal at the sight of such profanation, He at once turned upon the sacrilegious traffickers and drove them and their wares out of the Temple, using a scourge and saying: "Take these things hence, and make not the house of My Father a house of traffic." Nor did they stand on the order of their going, for they recognized in the indignant countenance and commanding presence of Jesus Christ the manifestation of divine displeasure.

The attitude of our Lord Jesus Christ towards the old Jewish Temple teaches us two very important lessons

—first, to love the House of God and to frequent it; and, secondly, to behave with the greatest reverence within its walls. Surely the Lord of the Temple did not need to honor it. Yet behold His attachment for it, how often He visited it, and how incensed He was against all who profaned it! And if the sanctuary of the Old Law was so sacred in the eyes of our Lord Jesus Christ, how much more so the sanctuaries of the New Law? Was it not said of Him that "zeal for God's house hath consumed Him?" And do we not find that those amongst us who have most of the Spirit of Christ imitate Him in this also? Good Christians love the House of God; they visit it often, and they are full of reverence for it. While on the other hand, there is no more infallible sign of a coarse and tepid Christian spirit than irreverence in the Temple of God. People whom you see enter the church laughing and talking, have little or no sense of worship they come rather for appearance's sake, like the Sadducees of old.

People whom you find neglecting church, Sunday after Sunday, have nothing of the Spirit of Christ; they are merely baptized heathens. There is no truer test of our religious spirit than this.

What is our attitude towards the house of God? Do we love to frequent it? Do we act with due reverence in it? If we are indifferent or irreverent, our religion is a mere sentiment, and our worship worse than a pretence. Let those who talk in church, the slothful Christians who struggle in late to church, the negligent Christians who seldom enter the church at all, ask themselves how Our Lord Jesus Christ must regard their conduct. Surely He would use the lash upon them, or He would withdraw from them as He did from the sacrilegious Jews in the Temple! We greatly fear Our Blessed Saviour would find much to displease Him in our churches.

Let us imitate the Blessed Saviour in His love and reverence for the Temple of God; let us frequent its sacred precincts, and never, by word or act, be guilty of the slightest irreverence within its walls. Let us teach our children to behave with the utmost decorum before the altar; let them understand that no word should there be spoken that is not addressed to the throne of God.—Sacred Heart Review.

Pious Remarks.

Humility is the hall-mark of wisdom. Caution is often wasted, but it is a very good risk to take. He is a fool who cannot be angry; but he is a wise man who will not.

It may be wicked, and it certainly is weak, to groan over the inevitable. Every joy which comes to us is only to strengthen us for some greater labor that is to succeed.

The true reward of a workman is not his wages, but the consciousness of having done a good job.

Imagination is the stairway which the mind uses when taking the measure of some lofty projection.

Get the Best. The public are too intelligent to purchase a worthless article a second time, on the contrary they want the best! Physicians are virtually unanimous in saying Scott's Emulsion is the best form of Cod Liver Oil.

"Like Diamonds Raindrops Glisten."

Drops of Hood's Sarsaparilla are precious jewels for the blood which glisten in their use, and, like the rain, disappear for the good of humanity. Each dose when taken is in a very short time thoroughly mixed with the blood and actively getting in its work of purification. Hood's never disappoints.

Running Sore—"My mother was troubled with rheumatism in her knee for a number of years, and it broke out into a running sore. She took three bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and is now well. Hood's Ointment helped to heal the eruption." Mrs. JOHN FARR, Cloverlawn, Ancaster, Ont.

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Eczema—"I was run down with complaints peculiar to my sex. Large sores broke out on my body head and limbs. I could not do any work on account of the itching. My trouble was termed eczema and I doctored for it for a long time. I then tried Hood's Sarsaparilla and several bottles effected a cure." Mrs. J. G. BROWN, Brantford, Ont.

Swellings—"I had a swelling on my chest. It caused me great pain and many sleepless nights. Physicians advised an operation but my daughter argued that I take Hood's Sarsaparilla instead. I did so and after using six bottles, the swelling went away and I have not had any more pains." Mrs. J. W. C. CRONKRIGHT, 452 Front St., Belleville, Ont.

Organs Affected—"I was run down in health and had spells of coughing which left me prostrate. My lungs, heart and kidneys were affected. Took Hood's Sarsaparilla upon advice and soon felt better. I continued the treatment and now feel like a new woman." Mrs. SHERMANN, 217 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, Ont.

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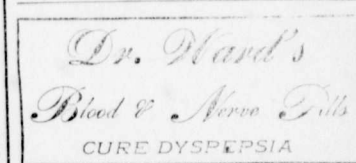
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