

"The Catholic Faith seems to have been devised by a truly wonderful intelligence, Jeanne," she said, "every need of the human heart appears to have been considered and supplied; from birth its members are surrounded and guarded by its sacraments; there is no depth from which it will not rescue the unhappy sinner; and no spiritual height to which it does not aspire; but why is it that the performance of some of its religious duties seem so hard and disagreeable, as for instance "Confession," of which Protestants speak so harshly?

"They speak unjustly of it, Charlotte," I answered, but that can be done of anything in heaven or on earth." In spite of all slander, however, our religion outlives centuries and generations, and if its institutions were false and impure as unbelievers assert, this would be impossible. Confession was founded by Christ. His words to his apostles were, you remember, "Whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven, whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Protestants explain that this privilege was given only to His particular apostles, but considering that His mission on earth was to save all, such partiality would have been a little inconsistent and wholly unlike the loving Saviour.

"Why then do Protestants seek to turn His meanings?" she asked.

"Because they do not harmonize with the innate pride of the human heart, Charlotte," I replied. "To confess one's sins is a great act of humility; only he who repents sincerely can thus humble himself. It is sublime in that the creature estimates the enormity of his sins as above every other consideration and is prepared to abase himself to the dust, and repair his life to the best of his ability. A great change takes place in him. False pride is replaced by humility and purity of heart as the direct result of self-knowledge."

"But does he not often commit again the same sins he has confessed, and could he not repent, sin no more, and amend his life without confession, Jeanne?"

"He does not commit the great sins again, Charlotte. I should not think it likely after such a sacrifice of his pride in confessing them; but even if he does so, Our