

surely not an error that of itself unchurches her. Our attitude towards her in this respect is a matter apart from her attitude toward us. We have been under the impression that our church as a whole considered the Roman Catholic church to be a part of the visible Church of Christ. Certainly, that view has been held by our most eminent theologians. But at all events, a system which with all its errors and superstitions still holds to the saving truths of Christianity, still teaches "the doctrine of the Trinity, the person of Christ, Sin, Atonement, the work of the Spirit, and future Retribution" is not to be placed on a level with Mohammedanism and Infidelity. The outcome of these systems is as widely different from that of Roman Catholicism as their beliefs are. Mohammedanism builds no orphan asylums, hospitals, refuges. Infidelity sends no Sisters of Charity to battle fields and fever-stricken cities, raises up no moral heroes such as many of the Roman Catholic missionaries have been.

I have beside me a letter written to a friend by a devout Roman Catholic lady, in reference to the death of a much-loved daughter, who had died suddenly and away from home. She speaks of her great loss, and feels that it is hard to say "God's will be done," yet seeks to have such a resignation. She knows that her daughter, whose life had been one of Christian unselfishness, had committed herself to the keeping of her Divine Saviour, and she trusts that now in His presence she is enjoying her great reward.

Mohammedanism and infidelity produce no such spirit, nor yet such hopes as these. And a church whose teaching does produce them has surely not yet lost her place in the Universal Christian body.

We all desire that the day may speedily come, when, with clearer light, the Roman Catholic Church shall cast away her errors and accept the pure Word of God as the "only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him," But it will not hasten the coming of that day that we should refuse to recognize what truth there is in the beliefs of Roman Catholics, and decline to stand with them where we can, in opposition to common enemies, and in defence of common truths.

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