

could be found, he would be willing to undertake the duty of vice-chairman, at whatever personal inconvenience he might be put to. Mr. Petre then entered more fully into the wants of Catholics, and the necessity of having a body ready at all times to undertake whatever might conduce to the benefit of those who had it not in their power to assist themselves; he instanced such as were in workhouses and prisons, who are in a manner isolated from their fellow-Catholics, yet in a state which of all others requires their assistance and best services.

Mr. Silvertop addressed the meeting, and showed the very extensive objects to which the Catholic Institute, if organised, might be most beneficially applied.

Lord Stourton agreed with Mr. Silvertop, and pointed out the great necessity of some organisation for the purpose of the education of the poor.—Adjourned.

DR. BAGGS,

In his Pastoral Letter to the Clergy and Laity of the Western Diocese in England, says:—

Dear! Beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ—While we have great reason to be thankful to our bountiful God for the abundant temporal blessings which he has imparted to this our beloved country, we should not cease to mourn for the spiritual evils with which this land is inundated. During three centuries the great majority of its inhabitants have been unhappily separated from the Apostolic See, the centre of Catholic unity, and they have consequently been estranged from the communion of the entire Catholic world. While their religious position is thus isolated, they are divided among themselves by endless varieties of opinion and communion. These were all unknown to our Catholic forefathers, as they were to the Apostles and the other teachers of truth in the first ages of Christianity. Some of our dear but separated brethren, men of research and candour, have, with God's help, attained a knowledge of the truth of our holy religion; yet they allow their consciences to be imposed upon by specious but hollow pretences, and thus expose their immortal souls to imminent danger, by neglecting to join the communion of that one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, in which they profess to believe. Let us not cease to pray for them and for all our beloved fellow-countrymen, that they may not only know but also embrace the truth, and thus be admitted to participate in the graces of the Sacraments, for the sanctification and salvation of their souls, which were purchased by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Whence arise the evils to which we have alluded? From the rejection of the authority of the Church which our ancestors acknowledged, and which, with

God's blessing, preserved them from heresies and sects; from the adoption of the private interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, in which, as St. Peter, inspired by the Holy Ghost, teaches "there are some things hard to be understood, which the learned and unstable wrest to their own destruction." (2 Pet. iii. 16.) The Catholic Church has sedulously laboured to prevent this fatal abuse of the written word of God, by which the follies and prejudices of erring individuals are falsely attributed to the God of all truth. Yet, as you well know, she not only allows the Scriptures to be read in translations approved by her, and in the original tongues, but she has ever been solicitous to promote the true knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, as well as of those Divine traditions, which were originally received by the Apostles from Christ our Lord or from the Holy Ghost. It is, therefore, a manifest calumny against the Catholic Church, and the Apostolic See, as our most holy Father Pope Gregory XVI. observes, in his encyclical letter (dated May 8, 1844), to pretend that she has wished to deprive the faithful of the knowledge of the holy books. In this country in particular, where the calumny is daily repeated that the Catholic laity are not allowed to read the Scriptures, it is a fact well known, to you all, that the English Douay version of the Old Testament, and the English Rheims version of the New Testament, are approved by the Catholic Bishops, and are in general circulation among the Catholic laity, with the full approbation of their pastors. Nevertheless, as attempts are often made to seduce Catholics from the faith ("once delivered to the Saints," Jude 3, and ever preserved in the Church, according to the promises of Christ, by the successors of St. Peter), by distributing among them certain translations of the Scriptures, in which some of the Sacred books of the Old Testament are either omitted or falsely declared to be apocryphal, and in which some important passages are incorrectly translated, which, besides, contain no notes to prevent the abuse spoken of by St. Peter, and which are otherwise not approved by the Church. Our most holy Father Pope Gregory XVI., in the above-mentioned Apostolical letter, directs all Bishops to warn their flocks, as circumstances may permit, against these endeavours of the enemies of the Church; and we, accordingly, in obedience to the injunctions of the venerated successor of St. Peter, caution you in the Lord against the use of versions of Scripture unauthorized by the Church, and, in general, against all books which may endanger the purity of your faith or morals.

If we turn our attention to ourselves, while we find cause for thankfulness and consolation in the faith and fervour of many Catholics of this country, yet we deplore the unhappy state of others, who live habitually in grievous sin, and who are, therefore, in imminent danger of dying in sin, and suffering eternal torments. Some, too, there are, who are lukewarm and indifferent, and who do not appreci-