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## FATHER DUHIGG'S RETORT COURTEOUS

Father Duhigg, of St. John's church, New York, knows how and when to use the "retort courteous" so as to make it most effective. The other day, without the knowledge of Father Duhigg or any of his assistants, Miss B. A. McNamara, one of the parishioners, supposing Mrs. Mackay (wife of Mackay, the millionaire) to be a Catholic, wrote a letter to her, calling her attention to the work which Father Duhigg had accomplished in the erection of the fine new parish school, and asking her for a contribution toward the equipment of the class rooms. Some days later a letter was received at St. John's rectory, addressed: "Miss B. A. McNamara, or Father Duhigg, St. John's Parochial School." Father Duhigg, not being able to find Miss McNamara, opened it. The letter follows:—

To Miss B. A. McNamara:—  
 Madam: Yours of the 15th has been forwarded me here, and in reply I wish to tell you that I absolutely disapprove of parochial schools of the Romanist faith, and consider them a grave menace to our country. Needless to say, I am not a Romanist, and will not help you.  
 Yours truly,  
 KATHERINE MACKAY.

Aug. 17.  
 On the next day Father Duhigg forwarded this reply to Mrs. Mackay at Saratoga:—

Mrs. Katherine Mackay:—  
 Madam: Rather astonished, I assure you, by a note received from you this morning. I was not aware of the fact that any one in this parish had written to you in relation to our new school, and regret that you were disturbed about the matter. The information you volunteer, viz., that you absolutely disapprove of parochial schools of the Romanist faith, and that you consider them a grave menace to our country, simply reveals a condition of mind. The opinion is characteristic. In the schools you dislike so much we teach our children the ordinary courtesies of life. As an example, we would tell them that the use of the word "Romanist" betrays bad form, and that nice, intelligent people would not be guilty of such a blunder.

Faithfully yours,  
 THOMAS S. DUHIGG,  
 Rector of St. John's.

It is to be hoped that this gentle but firm rebuke of Father Duhigg's will improve Mrs. Mackay's manners. People who think and speak of Catholics as "Romanists" are, however, usually beyond improvement in that regard.  
 Sacred Heart Review.

### CHILLS PROVE FATAL!

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### THE COLLEGE TAILOR

By Michael Earls, S. J., in Donahoe's for September

Jimmy, I have said, was our college tailor. He never acquired elegance in his art; to the last he was more proficient in mending than in constructing. He was by long practice an adept at patches, a kind nurse to battered elbows but his hands trembled when they attempted to ply the scissors over a curved line. Angles, acute or obtuse, never troubled him, but the patch that required any curved line, spherical or elliptical, set him trembling like a boy before his examiners in school. Many an outer garment showed where Jimmy had, though unconsciously, squared the circle. Yet there was never any great fault-finding over Jimmy's clumsy work, nor was there, during his early years as college tailor, any incentive to spur him on to artistic achievements. His customers were only the college boys, who brought their fine walk-out clothes from home; for the rough wear of yard-play and beaches they were glad to take the strong jackets and trousers, graceless though they were, that Jimmy made. It mattered little to the St. Botolph boys on ordinary days whether their coats hung as shapefully from their shoulders as a London tailor could make them, or whether the legs of their trousers were, to the very thread, of even length. Yard-play at St. Botolph's was vigorous action, not sedate posing as in a parlor, and we needed sturdy garments for the daily fray, cloth that would not blanch in ten rain storms, and stitches that would not give at a score of wrestling bouts. Only two boys in



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my time at St. Botolph's were not patrons of Jimmy's handiwork, and they received many a scolding from home for expenses in dress. The rest of us, whatever our other failings were, had no such complaint against us.

One of Jimmy's philosophical quips remains in my memory, as if I had heard it but yesterday, and the occasion of his using it comes back to me whenever I ask for a second cup of coffee at breakfast. It was at breakfast whilst Jimmy, according to his wont, was serving us seniors, that I said, "Jimmy, I think I'll take a little more coffee."  
 "Kempis says, 'rather a little less than more,'" Jimmy replied, as he stooped to take the cup.

"Yes," said I, "but Kempis is not quoted in Tongiorgi."  
 And Jimmy looking down as if in pity, said, "Quid inde?" and moved off victorious.

### PROVED A FOOL

A converted infidel once told me this story: "A preacher once said: 'I can prove to an infidel in five minutes that he is a fool.' An infidel heard him, and said to the preacher: 'I am an infidel, and I am no fool. I have lectured against Christianity for ten years and I tell you that there is nothing in it!' 'Well,' said the preacher, 'you are an infidel, are you?' 'Yes, sir,' replied the infidel.

'And you have been talking and lecturing against Christianity for ten years?' said the preacher. 'Yes, sir, I am sure there is nothing in Christianity,' said the infidel. 'Well,' replied the preacher, 'don't you think a man is a fool who will spend ten years of his life talking and lecturing against something which has nothing in it?' After some hesitation the infidel said: 'Ye-e-e-es.' 'Well,' said the preacher, 'I have proved my proposition to be true by you and have two minutes left.'"  
 —Christian Leader.

### THE MISSION PRIEST'S PRAYER

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." St. Matt. vii, 7.

Ask, seek, knock.  
 Oh God! guide Thou my flock,  
 Lest groping round this earthly scene  
 They vainly seek in things terrene  
 For shadows that but mock.

Ask, seek, knock.  
 Man's word is useless talk.  
 From God alone must come the love  
 That tunes the heart to things above,  
 Supreme to hellish shock.

Ask, seek, knock.  
 My tiny little knock  
 Sounds faintly up at heaven's gate,  
 As patiently I outside wait  
 In sacerdotal frock.

Ask, seek, knock.  
 As onward moves the clock,  
 From holy shrine ascends the prayer  
 Of God's own Son incarnate there;  
 May it enforce my knock!

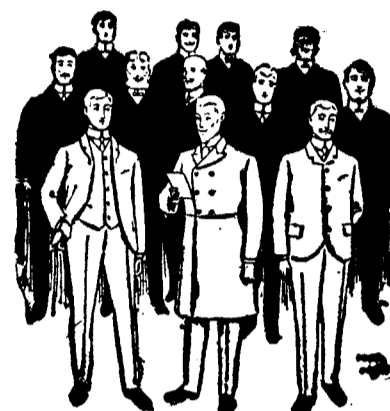
Ask, seek, knock.  
 May God preserve my flock  
 From worldly soil and Satan's guile,  
 Past death's uncertain dark defile!  
 This is my daily knock.

REV. J. D. MACLEOD.  
 New Glasgow, May, 1905.  
 (In the Casket)

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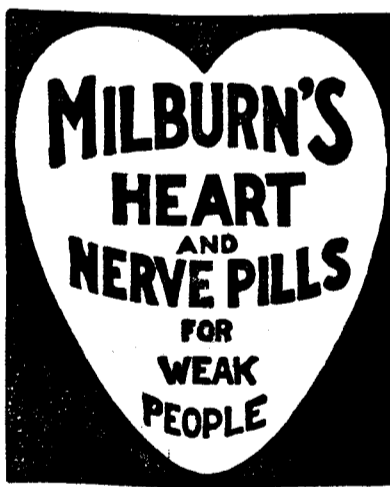
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