

OF A PORTRAIT.

clock, which indicated a late hour of the evening. Lifting the lamp from my desk, I made my way to the door and suddenly...

refused my offer of supper and said he had no more to tell. With that he bowed, shrugged his shoulders, and went out. I followed him to the head of the staircase and watched him descend...

ago, however, I was allowed to pursue my own course in comparative freedom. Now and then the police warned me that I was approaching too near the line in my writings...

Prince Z carried his bank notes away with him. He wished to reward me, saying that but for me the money would have been lost to him. The only reward I could consent to take...

Cardinal Manning, in reference to the malign influence of inconsistent, worldly Catholics, once said with searching irony: "Such, as are so pious that they can be at the opera till midnight and go to Communions in the morning; who wear scapulars under ball dresses, who mix fasts with great worldly feasts; novels with books of devotion. People of the world," he goes on, "look on you Catholics and they say, 'Oh, they are Catholics; they are stricter than we are; their religion is a strict one; their priests won't let them do this or that; and the same as they do in our doing the same things, and they had better be on the same level with themselves.'"

What intelligent Catholics who mix at all with the world has not been embarrassed by such questions as: "How is this, we thought the Catholic Church was opposed to round dances?" or, "Is it true or not that your Church approves of its members attending the theatre, the opera or balls during Lent and Advent?" We have reason to know that in spite of the prevailing ignorance and prejudice among outsiders, there is a growing impression that the Catholic Church is somehow far ahead of all other professedly Christian bodies, in the perfection of its organization, its high standard of morality, its strictness of discipline; and they naturally look for greater strictness of life and consistency of Christian conduct among Catholics than among others. Many of them are thoughtful and intelligent and even religiously inclined, and seem to know what a true Christian ought to be, and really have a desire to find something better, something more consistent and reliable, something more faithful and loyal than what they have been accustomed to. And, somehow, they seem to know, as if by intuition, that they ought to find it in the Catholic Church. And when they are brought in contact with men and women who are perhaps looked upon as leading, if not representative, Catholics, doing pretty much as Protestants do; manifesting the same disposition to compromise with the world; the same greed for gold; the same passionate pursuit of pleasure and worldliness; of gain and godliness; the same disposition to cry in one breath good Lord, good devil, is it any wonder if they should be not only scandalized but disappointed?

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