

THE CATHOLIC

QUOD SEMPER, QUOD UBIQUE, QUOD AB OMNIBUS CREDITUM EST.—WHAT ALWAYS, AND EVERY WHERE, AND BY ALL IS BELIEVED.

Very Rev. W. P. MacDonald, V. G., Editor.

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ROBERT SOUTHWELL, S. J. (1595.)

BY W. J. WALTER, AUTHOR OF "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR THOS. MORE," ETC

"And smit with feelings of the olden days,
Revive the music of neglected lays."

Daniel, (1595.)

[CONTINUED.]

The following description of a search in York castle, is from a "Report" of Father Holdby: "On the 18th December (1593) our keepers called us all down in great haste into the castle yard, where Mr. Rockeby was waiting for us. He said that the lord president and his council were informed that a seminary priest was among us, who had said mass the same morning in our house: that his name was John Fisher, and that some of our company had betrayed him; and that except he were found, they would not depart, but would pull down the house upon our heads. Whereupon the searchers being appointed, fell to work rifling our chambers and poor lodgings, till seven at night. But they found not much that day. They then set their watch all night to see that no one conveyed the priest away; and returning in the morning, brought with them workmen with their tools and implements, to sound every hollow place, and break it up. 'The seminary traitor you have among you,' said they, 'and we will have him, or pull down the house over your heads.' With such like doings and speeches, they threatened us for three days, and during the search they shut us all up, men, women and children, in a close place, where we could scarce stand beside each other. No remedy could we have; though the young children cried, and the mothers lamented their babes, small pity was shown. In the meantime the searchers wrought diligently, knocking and sounding every wall, and every floor under their feet. They broke through walls, ceilings, floors, chimney-hearths, and at last untiled the house, and breaking down all within the chambers, they tossed and trod under their feet our beds and bedding, making their way over all without sparing. They found great store of books and church stuffs, chalices and cruets of silver, crosses of silver and gilt with relics, pictures, antependiums, and other furniture for the altar, which had been bestowed upon us by former prisoners and good benefactors. And now, alas! they have harried us of all; many of us have not so much as a prayer book; nay, not a piece or part of one: all was fish that came to their net. These gentlemen searchers were followed up by hungry rascals, who licked up their leavings, sparing neither silver spoons, jewels, linen, cloths, kerchiefs, &c., that could be carried away. And the worst of all is, that we have a Judas among us, and cannot find means to exclude him from our company.

"The next day, being St. Thomas' eve, they came again in the same manner, to pull more down. 'It is confessed,' said they, 'by some of your fellows that he said mass among you; we shall find him yet; we have watched so that he could not steal away.' So they kept knocking down and rifling till dinner time, nor left off till eight at night. The rooms being small, they divided themselves into many companies, so that when one company had searched, another came, and another, till at last the gleanings raked up, as sweepstakes, without scruple, all that the others had made some conscience of.—

A mighty spite they had about chimneys, keeping much ado about them. Climbing up to the house tops, they cast stones down to see whether there were any false tones. They termed one chamber 'the priest's room,' and at that they battered away most foully. They used the most threatening and barbarous speeches that could be uttered against priests and Catholics.

"Being disappointed in his purpose at the castle, the president caused another search for a priest to be made, at a gentlewoman's house in Nidderdale, of the name of Ardington. He had been assured by his spies that Sir David Inglely, the lady's brother, and the lady Ann Neville were there, both of whom were accused as harborers of priests. The searchers on their way, forced a poor man from his house, to be their guide. When they came near the lady's residence, they drew their swords, cocked their pistols, and buckled themselves for battle, as though they had to take some castle by assault, in lieu of a gentlewoman's house. The only resistance, however, consisting of a company of women, they put up their weapons, entered the door which stood open, searched, rifled, and turned all things upside down, but found nothing greatly for their purpose. Yet, fearing to be disappointed in their journey, they determined not to depart so speedily, but seated themselves in the house, and as though all had been their own, helped themselves at the gentlewoman's cost till Thursday or Friday following. All they could find in the house was certain apparel of some gentleman, such as doublets, hose, and Guernsey stockings. Upon them they seized by the president's warrant, whose beggarly disposition is such, that his only way of rewarding his trusty servants is with the spoils of those he persecutes. This time, the chief pursuivant returned home all in a chafe, that he sped no better; nor was his wife better pleased that his budget came so light home; for she was always accustomed to give the first welcome to his knapsack, on his return, which seldom or ever came home empty."

Another "Report," also preserved among the Stoneyhurst MSS., affords us the following particulars of the stratagems practised by the pursuivants. "Their searches are many and severe, and their principal times for them are when Catholics are most busy to serve God, as on Sundays, holidays, Easter, Christmas, Whitsuntide, and such great feasts. They come either in the night, or early at morning. They lock up the inmates of the house all in a room together, and like young princes go rifling all at their pleasure. The livings of Catholics are begged, first by one and then by another, and the poor Catholic is obliged to compound with all, and to buy in his own three or four times over. The law prescribes two parts of the recusant's land and goods to the queen, and the other to the pursuivant.—They buy and sell Catholics like calves in the market; and if they be in prison, their best course to get out, is to seek to be the pennyworth of some catchpole who, as a reward for his service, is often permitted to make a sale of some prisoner's liberty. The said pursuivants are, for the most part bankrupts, and needy fellows, fled from their trade for debt, and furnished up with the queen's badge as a protection from jail, and the means of getting a living. What can be more intolerable to flesh and blood, than to see such base and infamous castaways come and crow over the best gentlemen, yea noblemen too, in their own houses, and use such imperious and princely behaviour as would move to indignation the

most potent and forbearing. What wonder that such beings should, under pretext of law, carry on the trade of thieves, stealing all they can find that is valuable.— Their manner is to come with a troop of men, as though they came to fight a field. They beset the house on every side; then rush in and ransack every corner, even women's beds and bosoms, with such insolent behaviour, that their villainies in this kind are fit for martyrdom. The men they command to stand guard to keep their places, while they pack up whatever of value comes in their way, and pocket jewels, money, under pretence of papistry. And what remedy for these evils? Catholics' suits, be they never so just, seldom take effect, unless it be by bribery of the sheriff or judges. The latter have been heard openly to say, that as papists will not obey the laws, they shall have no law at their hands. What sophistry! since who more obedient to the law than Catholics, except such only as are against their religion and their conscience? . . . The following instances will show the impossibility of Catholics obtaining justice. A worshipful Catholic esquire had his house searched by one Cobham, and two other catchpoles, accompanied by certain of the president's men who spoiled his house, and took away his plate and other things of value. The under sheriff of the shire being sent in the bishop's behalf to see that no outrage was committed contrary to equity, seeing Cobham and his fellows take away the gentleman's goods, and being asked why he suffered it, answered that, he durst not oppose them, though he knew it was an injustice. On another occasion, the pursuivants in searching a gentleman's house, took a bag of money amounting to more than threescore pounds. The gentleman went to Secretary Walsingham to complain of the wrong and the theft; but was answered, that 'the queen's must be considered, and that, if he put the matter in suit, it would only be throwing good money after bad.' But still more insidious and desperate means were resorted to for entrapping the Catholic. One Tyrrel, a notorious spy and renegade, confessed under his hand and oath, that justice Young and other magistrates bade him say mass, hear confessions, and administer the form of sacraments, for the purpose of entrapping Catholics, and drawing them into the penalties. Many other spies and renegades have done the same, and afterwards openly avowed to whom, and for what reward they had done so. They caused another ruffian purposely to seek to be reconciled to Father J——, now in Wisbeach, and to come to confession to him; this he accordingly did, and the good unsuspecting father found himself entrapped at the very moment he thought he was administering the comforts of religion. Sometimes the pursuivant is forced to have regard to men of great calling, but from the priest they take all, purse, horse, apparel, books, in a word, whatever they find upon him or about him; there are none to claim justice for such outrage."

Orangeism.—We are rejoiced to learn that not less than 10 new Lodges have been recently created in New Brunswick, and several others are in progress since the rebellious and treasonable murder of Morrison at Kingston. We perceive some of the leading Conservative journals in England are of opinion that in a time when there will be few staunch conservatives but such as are Orangemen.—*Frederickton Loyalist.*