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## THE CATHOLIC.

Hamilton, G. D.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28.

We copy from the *Catholic Miscellany* the following communication in relation to the pecuniary matters of that old and ably conducted periodical, conceiving that many of the arguments used bear too much of a resemblance to our own matters. We therefore strongly recommend an attentive perusal of the same by our Agents and Subscribers.

To the Editors of the U. S. Catholic Miscellany.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with the utmost grief that we have perused the statement you have given concerning the inadequate support afforded the *Miscellany*. That "the Catholics will not support their paper," is a hard saying; but apparently true. Have the kindness to take another view of the case. We feel certain that there are more than four hundred Catholics who would bear a spot of shame for ever burning on their hearts, were this paper to be suspended—this paper which might be called the keystone of our outward fabric. Without it what would be our condition? Scattered about as the Catholics are, in the back parts of the three large States which form our diocese; the *Miscellany* is the tie which binds us together. Poor and destitute as our portion of the everlasting Church appear to be, there is not one member of it who does not feel the soul-inspiring consciousness, that he is in the only true path to Heaven; that the members of his communion are knit together by a bond which no power on earth, nor even those of darkness can dissolve. To one of those located in a distant spot, where, for, perhaps, during the course of a whole year, he may be but once permitted to assist at the adorable sacrifice, to receive the remission of his sins, and feed on that food which gives eternal life, how cheering is the arrival of the *Miscellany*? With what delight does he receive the joyful intelligence, that the days are come, when the Cross is again lifted up where it had been levelled in the dust. How much information, pleasing, although of less consequence he derives from its pages; and comforted, and encouraged in his solitary state, he looks forward to the coming week with hope not deferred.

Shall all this cease? Shall the first herald of the true faith in the United States lie low and silent? Forbid it heaven! Our father has been taken from us, he to whom we looked in every difficulty; who never failed us, whose protecting influence was such that we never reflected we might no longer expect to be cared for as infants, but should take our parts of the labours of the household. Heaven has made us orphans, and we have not yet learned to provide for ourselves. Let me with all humility make a suggestion. Let a certain number of persons from the three congregations of

the city, be requested to act as collectors for the *Miscellany*; let them divide the duty of calling upon the subscribers of the city and neck; and let them also procure additional subscribers. Let the same plan be pursued in Savannah, Augusta, and in any place where there is a church. In other parts of the diocese, let the priests be requested to attend to this business. Wherever located, it is presumable that they have some intercourse with each Catholic at least once a year. We cannot believe that their influence would be fruitless.

I suggest this mode of proceeding, because nothing definite has yet been proposed, and already the time for exertion is passing away. If those who are called the stronger sex, cannot bend to this undertaking; let the elasticity of the weaker, supply the want; let those whose constancy, if equalled, has never been surpassed; whose perseverance only requires to be tested, in order to be proved; not be denied the gratification of ministering, even in this manner, to the household of faith. They will not fail of success, for they will remember that, "they that hope in the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall take wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." M. G. C.

Having copied this paragraph as regards the *Miscellany*, the "New York Freeman's Journal" offers the following comments on the same subject:—

We know not whether pain or indignation was uppermost with us, on reading the above announcement in the *Charleston U. S. Catholic Miscellany* of Saturday last, the 26th of November. We do not speak of surprise, for we know too well what is generally the position of Catholic and Irish papers in the United States, to be astonished at reading of difficulties and embarrassments besetting them. But, we are deeply pained and indignant to find that a journal like the *Miscellany*, which, during its long existence, has been the single-minded, upright and able advocate of Catholic and Irish interests, should, at this day, be on the very brink of suspension for the want of adequate support. As we reflected, we were involuntarily carried back, in spirit, to the time when twenty-two years ago, it was the solitary and unaided, but not the less bold and strenuous, champion of Catholics and Irishmen, with not an echo to its fearless voice from Maine to Louisiana,—we thought of the vigorous hand that brought it into life, fostered it into strength, and directed it upon its onward course; of the mighty mind that shone through its pages for twenty years; we thought how its services and its existence are a part of the history of the Catholic Church in the South, and its name is linked with one which is interwoven with much that is brilliant in the history of Catholicism every where and of Irishmen all over the world; we thought how it is recommended to us in every way, by the memory of former times, by the sake of the illustrious dead, by its long and invaluable services in the cause; and it startled us to remember that for the want of four hundred

paying subscribers the *Miscellany* must stop. *Four hundred paying subscribers!* We know not of what sort of stuff the Catholics of the South are made, but we mistake them very much, and the world has very much over-rated Southern men, if they will suffer the *Miscellany* to go down for the sake of assistance so very moderate as this. We give them credit for too much wisdom to suppose that sooner than make a little exertion they will see themselves left without a Press. We err very much in our estimate of their feelings of profound affection and grateful remembrance for their loved and lamented Bishop, if they passively fold their hands and look on with a sluggish indifference while the journal which he cherished into life and health and vigour, the child of his zeal, his patriotism and his intellect, languishes to death,—an event that would disturb him in his grave.

Until we see it we will not believe that the Catholics of the South are so dead to every consideration of gratitude and of prudence—nay, of common sense,—as to permit the *Miscellany* to cease, when a slight effort will place it at once, if not in a position of security, at least in one out of danger. Let them but reflect for a moment what will be their situation, when left without a press to guard their rights, to uphold their claims, and to express their opinions. In a country like this, is any situation more to be deprecated?

In general, we dislike fault-finding, especially with the public, but we cannot quit this subject without some remarks, which it naturally suggests, upon the relations existing between the Irish and the Catholic Press. There is no class of society any thing like so much in need of Presses to advocate their rights and represent their opinions. This no man who considers the prejudices abroad throughout the country, can deny. It is just as impossible to deny the unpleasant truth that no class evinces any thing like the same apathy about establishing such organs where they are not, or supporting them where they are, in existence. The Catholics in the United States, it will be seen by reference to the first page of this day's paper, are computed at about 1,500,000 souls; or nearly one tenth of the entire population. Yet we venture to assert that all their newspapers put together do not circulate as many copies as the (Presbyterian) *Observer*, or half as many as one Methodist paper, the *Christian Advocate*. We say this in no spirit of complaint, since, for our own part, we have every reason to be grateful for the support rendered to the *New York Freeman's Journal*, and which, in the two years elapsed since its commencement, has raised its circulation to a point far exceeding the most sanguine expectations, and far beyond that of any other journal of the same class in the country. Nevertheless, with every proper feeling of gratitude, we cannot help thinking how little, after all, we Catholics have done for the Press, when we remember what has been accomplished by Sectarians with hardly double our numbers. Nearly every day we go through Nassau street, where, in

this city, the sectarian printing establishments are principally situated, and as we look up at the vast piles stored from cellar to roof with books, periodicals, tracts, &c., while we can feel the pavement tremble as we go along to the steady beat of the powerful steam engines driving scores of presses, and pour out daily floods of printed paper; and when we reflect that all this is but a part of the immense resources at the command of Protestantism, we feel an involuntary sinking of the heart when we turn to the contrast presented by the means in the possession of the Catholics. Let us not be misunderstood; we do not mean to say that the Catholics have not done a great deal, but we mean that they have not done as well as others, and nothing near as much as was requisite to be done. In proof of this we referred (one instance for all) to the position of the press.

We have said that we dislike exceedingly to complain, or else we might very often (notwithstanding our large circulation) have spoken harshly of the conduct of too many of our subscribers, as nearly all our cotemporaries have to do, now and then. From means at our command, exchange papers, &c., we can state without fear of contradiction that no newspapers in the United States are forced to appeal so often and so urgently to their subscribers as the Catholic journals. Why this is so we do not care to inquire; we only know that it is so. We saw, the other day, in the Cincinnati *Catholic Telegraph*, a paragraph stating (if we recollect aright) that its subscribers were in arrears between three and four thousand dollars. We suppose there is not a Catholic paper in the country, two years old, of which nearly the same could not be said. We hear a good deal about the disinterested services of public men, politicians, and such cattle, but we say seriously that what are really disinterested services are those of an editor (particularly if he should happen, in punishment for his sins, to be also proprietor) of a Catholic newspaper. Incessant labour, much odium, countless annoyances, many difficulties, with a narrow and grudging support from those for whom he is toiling hard and hazarding much—are his unenviable lot.

It is high time that some efforts should be made by the press to check the accumulation of debts in the hands of ill-disposed subscribers, and thus check an evil which must eventually swamp the strongest establishment. It is high time that Catholics who withhold from a Catholic paper their just dues, should know, not only that they are CHEATING the proprietor, (a fact of which they seem to be ignorant) but that they are doing all the damage in their power to the cause which that paper supports with greater or less ability, as the case may be, but honestly at all events. It is high time the Catholic public should know that it is their own interests and not those of the newspaper proprietor, they are advancing, when they support him by their subscription.

We have spoken out plainly upon this point, because it is one of the utmost importance, both to the press and the public, and because we think that under existing circumstances, hints and insinuations and soft nonsense are worse than useless.