

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

BY A PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN.
Sacred Heart Review.
COCXXXIII.
It is often said, by Protestants, that it was the mendicant orders which turned the Papal Primacy into Supremacy.

Our Protestant writers used to treat the Popes, much after the style of our friend the correspondent, as guilty of great arrogance in breaking down episcopal and parochial authority by the large exemptions which they gave to the friars.

Gregory VII. had already secured the pastorate from falling into the stagnation of an hereditary case. Yet he could not save it from a certain heaviness and negligence which for awhile involved the secular priesthood, and more or less the elder orders.

By the way, it is a little amusing, in turning over some of our older Protestant historians, to note their zealous championship of episcopal prerogative against Papal encroachment.

It is nice, and it seems to me that it must be good for the health, to have the Church of Rome to fling at, whenever we want to say something spiteful and yet do not want to fall out with our own colleagues.

The learned Germans who treat this topic make it interesting, as so much scholarship would make anything interesting, at least in the hands of a Dollinger; but when we come back to actual life we don't find the world much agitated over such questions.

We know that the Methodist Church, religiously, and even politically, is perhaps the most influential body in the country. The Baptists, though still more numerous, aim at no political control.

THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL.
IT IS EMBODIED IN THE RELIGIOUS SISTERHOODS.
By Dr. F. G. Welsh.
Life at best is strewn with many failures, even worked out under the most favorable environments, supported by home and its sacred influences, by friends, by all the potency that worldly goods and honors can bestow, by all the power that wealth and prestige can give.

Who is it that visits the slums of our great cities, ministering to the afflicted, consoling the living, comforting the dying, reclaiming the fallen? When pestilence sweeps over the land, and mothers desert their babes, and husbands their wives, who is it that presses the cup of cold water to the feverish lips, and closes the staring eyes of the deserted dead?

No longer is the despoiler of nations the hero of mankind, no longer is the Spartan mother who gloried to have her son return with his shield or on it, the ideal of Christian motherhood, but we have come to realize that he who devotes himself to the interest of his fellow-beings is greater, grander, and nobler than all the heroes or kings that pagan philosophy ever supported.

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admiration of an approving public, though its triumphs are achieved in the seclusion of cloister and convent, though at times the cross is a little heavier and the thorns are a little harder.

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON.

The Epiphany.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE SPIRIT.

For whosoever are led by the Spirit of God they are the Sons of God. (Rom. viii. 14.)

The end of our pilgrimage, like that of the three wise men, my brethren, is union with our Lord. Of course union with God, through His power and His being present everywhere, always existing, whether we are His friends or not.

THE MOMENT OF CONSECRATION.

Rev. Chas. Coppens, S. J., in the True Voice.

No wonder that the golden tongued doctor of the ancient Eastern Church, St. Chrysostom, wrote in his treatise on the priesthood: "During that time the angels stand by the priest, the whole order of heavenly powers forcibly pray, the sanctuary is full of choirs of angels come to honor Him who is offered up in sacrifice. All this may be most easily credited, even from the very nature of the sacrifice which is celebrated. But I have been told by a certain person, who had it from an aged and wonderfully venerable man, who said that God was wont to reveal His secrets, that a clear vision had once been granted to him by God of what went on at Mass. He then beheld during that time a multitude of angels come down on a sudden upon the sanctuary, bearing a human appearance, clothed in bright raiment and surrounding the altar. Then they reverently bowed down their heads, like a courtly soldier standing in the presence of their King. And all this I most easily believe. (B. V.)

The lives of many saints narrate similar apparitions. Frequently they were favored with the vision of Christ Himself, whether under the form of a lovely infant resting on the uplifted hands of the priest, or smiling upon him from the corporal on which it lay; or under the aspect, at other times of the crucified Redeemer hanging on the Cross. Thus Hollandus, the founder of the Hollandist historians, relates of St. Colleta that one day when she was assisting at a Mass said by her confessor, she suddenly exclaimed at the elevation: "My God! O Jesus! O ye angels and saints! O ye men and sinners! Behold the great marvels!"

In 1258 in the "Saint's Chapelle" in Paris, close to the palace of St. Louis, at the elevation of a Mass, a beautifully child was seen in the hands of the priest by those present. The apparition lasted some time. But St. Louis refused to go and see it, saying: "Let them go who do not believe that our Lord is in the Sacred Host; my faith enables me to see Him in it every day." It is the thought first uttered by Christ: "Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed."

Various well-authenticated facts are on record by which Jesus glorified the celebrant of the Mass himself, who, as explained above is merged in Christ during the consecration. Thus St. Philip Neri was several times seen by the faithful present raised above

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work on your life. The tender emotion at hearing the divine promises, the loving regret for sin, the joy of forgiveness, the imagination filled—plainly by no human means—with images of celestial peace, the understanding as clear of doubt as heaven of clouds, the will strong and easily able to keep good resolutions, sometimes the very body sharing the lightness and vigor of the soul—what is all this but the embrace of the Holy Spirit? And if one says he does not feel it, and yet hopes he is in the state of grace, I answer that he will not be long deprived of it. Or it may be he is tepid; his soul is not able to feel any more than a hand numbed with cold; his ear not hearing because his attention is too much fixed on the voices of the world to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. His eye is too much dazzled by the false glitter of the world to catch sight of the star that leads to our Lord's feet.

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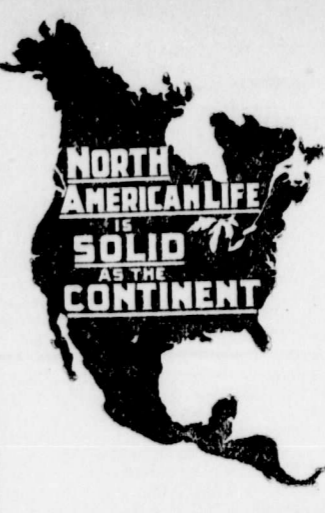
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the ground while he said Mass, at other times with rays of glory around his head. The priest is a son of the people as is our ruling Pontiff Pius X., but at the altar he is vicar of Christ, performing in the person of Christ the mystery of propitiation.

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