

it proves only the pagan origin, even in the Jewish church, of this pagan institution. But in conclusion of this part of the subject, I will say I cannot support the book of Maccabees as a real book of Scripture: it is an apocryphal book, therefore it is a false fact. But if Judas Maccabeus did so act according to divine inspiration, we have Judas Maccabeus acting, not only against the practice of Moses and the ancient Jewish Church, but against Jesus Christ, who really and clearly excluded all idea of the dogma of purgatory; therefore we do not believe in Judas Maccabeus, when Christ Jesus is for us, against this cruel and brutal dogma of purgatory. (Applause.)

What is the origin of this dogma? Like all other practices of the Church of Rome, the dogma of purgatory is a pagan dogma. The Greek pagans had purgatory; the Roman pagans had purgatory. Ha! the first holy father who wrote in favor of this Roman Catholic dogma was Virgilius. Virgilius, in the *Aeneid*, book vi., clearly describes the Roman Catholic purgatory all kinds of pain, and especially a large sea, and a large stream of fire in which souls are purified from all their criminalities. I pay my compliments to the Roman Catholic Church. (Laughter.) Before Christ, who never spoke a word in favor of purgatory—before Christ they have purgatory poetically described; and the holy fathers describing it are all pagan writers; and the first holy father, the St. Augustine of the Roman Catholic Church, is Virgilius! I pay my compliments to the Roman Catholic Church! (Laughter and applause.) It would be impossible that the Roman Catholic Church should abandon such a dogma, because you well see that this dogma is very profitable to the authority and purse of the Roman Catholic clergy.

But now I will clearly show that in the primitive Church there was no purgatory: that among the ancient Christian people there was no belief in purgatory. When a certain heretic arose for the first time, at the end of the fourth century, to support this pagan dogma, St. Augustine, one of the great champions of the Christian Church, St. Cyprian, and St. Jerome, arose against this dogma of purgatory. All the ancient fathers of the Church are for Christ, for the full redemption of Christ, for the infinite redemption of Christ, without purgatory, without the fire of purgatory, without prison after death; and it was only in the fifteenth century of the Christian era that this fatal dogma was imposed as a real dogma of the Roman Catholic Church; and the Greek Church, in the fifteenth century would not admit purgatory, and the Greek Church in the fifteenth century was really a Catholic Church.