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SIXTH LETTER OF DR. CAHILL
TO THE EARL OF CARLISLE.
Ballyroan Cottage, Rathfarnham,
May 22, 1856.

My Lord—Your Excellency is perfectly aware of the practice of the Catholic Church in recommending to the faithful the reading of the Scriptures; and you are, no doubt, well acquainted with the incessant, reckless lies, which in every part of Great Britain and Ireland are published to the contrary. The Protestant Bishops, the Protestant clergy, the Dissenters of every denomination, the Speakers at all the Bible-meetings, the Soupers in all the villages, the Biblical Press in all the towns and cities, the Biblical pamphlets, the novels, the Biblical literature, all published on all sides, in all places, and in all societies, that the Catholic Church prohibits the reading of the Scriptures; that the Bible is not to be found amongst them; and that it is criminal to possess a copy of the sacred volume.

This most monstrous lie is taught to the Protestant child in the arms of the nurse; it is his first lesson in reading; it is the first instruction he receives from his tutor; it is the first sermon he hears from the pulpit. He listens to it every day at the breakfast table; it is the conversation at dinner; it is the chat of the drawing-room. The pianoforte, the harp, the guitar, cannot have their lessons complete without this eternal lie. The dancing-master, the drawing-master, the linguist-master, are not considered fully accomplished in certain societies till they are fully inoculated with the conviction that no Catholic is permitted to read the Scriptures. You hear it in the steam carriage; on board the steam packet; it is talked over in the boarding house; it is the topic of the bazaar. The army is infected with it; from the mustached superior officer down to the swaddling private you behold it. It is in the navy; it is in the counting-house; in the banks; in the post-offices.—It is everywhere—at every turn; it is on the bench; and if your Excellency has had time to read the report of the "Endowed Schools," you would have learned that this awful lie formed part of the education of the children, making bonnets, knitting stockings, and learning plain sewing.

In fact, this lie has so completely occupied the public mind, that if any one attempts to deny it in the company of certain Protestants, he is instantly laughed at, jibed, or assailed with unmeasured abuse. If any one writes a contradiction of this incredible infatuation, he is set upon by a host of hired agents, who overwhelm him with authorities, all of which, if I may so speak, are a hundred times greater lies than the old, eternal lie under debate.

Although the Catholics feel intensely this enormous system of lying, still we can hit on no plan successfully to remove the grievance. If we declare it is a falsehood, we are instantly accused of Papal deception; if we swear it they assert, with a sneer of additional insult, that we have mental reservation and cannot be believed. Neither our words, our protestations, our oaths, are any guarantee against this theory of overcoming us, not by truth but by lies.—And I gladly say, that the persons who are most zealous in maintaining this system of permanent misstatement are otherwise men of honor, of truth, and principle, who would be utterly incapable of a social lie. This very character gives a color of truth to their Biblical career, and invests, with an additional power of mischief, their anti-Catholic theory of lies. In fact, my lord, the history of the age we live in develops no mania at all to be compared to this most fatal infatuation of keeping alive this Biblical lie. And the immediate result of this incredible public impression is that an endless war is carried on between Biblical landlords and their tenantry; between Biblical masters and their faithful Catholic servants; between Biblical officials and their dependents; in fact, between the poor and their Biblical superiors. It is this lie which breeds discontent in the Army, converts the Poorhouse into a hell, and spreads hatred and disaffection throughout all ranks of society.

The cost of this lie is the next wonderful thing in this incomprehensible mania; it costs the incredible annual sum of five millions two hundred thousand pounds sterling! There are fifty-six Bible and Souper Societies employed in the manufacture of this lie, for foreign and home consumption; and whoever will take the trouble of learning the sum subscribed for each and all of these societies will discover the truth of what I here assert. There never was such an engine at work in the propagation of lies and infidelity. And if Catholicity in these countries were not supported by the grace, the power, and the mercy of God, we could have never withstood, in our helpless, down-trodden social and political condition, the assault made on our Faith by the wealth, the power, the learning, the persecution, and the eternal misrepresentation of the opponents of our race, our name,

and our creed. Foreign countries have long since reclaimed against this Protestant scheme of unblushing, palpable falsehood; their journals have been expelled, their agents banished, the lies exposed. Austria, Bavaria, Spain, Naples have, like ourselves, been assaulted by the paid emissaries of the Bible Societies; and the result is, that an universal horror of England is felt throughout Europe for this insane system of religious mis-statement.

Now, my lord, I shall quote for the ten thousandth time, the clear contradiction of the statements, in reference to the Catholics "not being permitted to read the Scriptures." The Catholics will read this contradiction, as their invincible fathers did of old; and all the treasury of the world, and all the tyranny on earth can never wrench from their faithful Irish Catholic hearts the Faith which they have learned at their own old Catholic altars. From amongst a host of authorities I shall select some few in the present instance.

The first is from Pope Pius the Sixth to the Archbishop of Florence, April, 1778:—

POPE PIUS THE SIXTH.

"Beloved Son—Health and Apostolic Benediction! At a time that a vast number of bad books, which grossly attack the Catholic religion, are circulated even among the unlearned, to the great destruction of souls, you judge exceedingly well that the faithful should be excited to the reading of the Holy Scriptures; for these are the most abundant sources which ought to be left open to every one, to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine, to eradicate the errors which are so widely disseminated in those corrupt times. This you have seasonably effected, as you declare, by publishing the Sacred Writings in the language of your country, suitable to every one's capacity; especially when you show and set forth that you have added explanatory notes, which, being extracted from the Holy Fathers, preclude every possible danger of abuse. Thus you have not swerved either from the laws of the Congregation of the Index, or from the Constitution published on this subject by Benedict the XIV.—that immortal Pope, our Predecessor in the Pontificate, and formerly, when We held a place near his person, our excellent-master in ecclesiastical learning—circumstances which we mention as honorable to Us."

The second is from Dr. Denvir, the prudent, learned, and distinguished Bishop of Belfast:—

"This new and portable edition of the Douay Bible, printed by the firm of Simms & McIntyre, Belfast, has been diligently and carefully collated with the most approved versions in the language, previously to its publication. I hereby sanction its circulation among the faithful, feeling convinced, that if read with becoming reverence, humility, and pious dispositions, its perusal will be attended with great spiritual advantage."

† CORNELIUS DENVIR, D.D.,

Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor.

"Given at Belfast, this 24th day of July, 1839."

The third is from the pen of the incomparable Dr. Murray:—

"This new edition of the English version of the Bible printed with our permission by James Duffy, Wellington-quay, Dublin, carefully collated by our direction, with the Clementine Vulgate; likewise with the Douay version of the Old Testament of 1609, and with the Rhemish version of the New Testament of 1582; and with other approved English versions: We by our authority approve—and we declare the same may be used by the faithful with great spiritual profit, provided it be read with due reverence, and with the proper dispositions."

† D. MURRAY.

"Given at Dublin, this 4th Nov., 1846."

To the extracts here adduced, I wish also to add the testimony of three distinguished publishers, namely Mr. Richard Coyne, Dublin; Mr. James Duffy, Dublin; and the firm of Simms & McIntyre, of Belfast.—These three Establishments assert that they alone have sold about a quarter of a million of Bibles in Ireland, within the last twenty-five years; and on this point, a circumstance of peculiar deceit in government patronage is presented to the public—namely, the duty of twenty-five per cent is remitted to the publisher of Protestant Bibles, while it is levied on the Catholic printers. And here the English Government joins in the base lie of the Soupers: pretends to sell cheap Bibles to the Catholics: professes to be the sole distributors of the Scriptures: while at the same time they impede the publication of our Scriptures by a duty of twenty-five per cent: and thus the English government tries to make the lies of the Soupers be a reality, by muzzling our Press, and by imposing a duty which our publishers can hardly meet.

I crave the indulgence of your Excellency in em-

ploying the word "lie" so frequently in the present letter; and am perfectly aware of the character of the illustrious individual whom I have the honor to address; I know my own place, and fully comprehend the respectful, courteous, becoming language which it is my duty to utter in your presence. But when I have presented to you the extracts of Popes and Bishops; when I have stated to you the permanent practice of the Catholic Church; when I have given to you the sale of the Bibles made in Ireland in the lifetime of three living publishers; I ask your Excellency, as an English nobleman, have you ever heard, have you ever read, have you ever fancied in imagination, any invention, any fiction, to be compared in extravagance, in wickedness, in permanent iniquity, to equal the clerical lie of the Soupers and Biblical Societies, in asserting that the Catholic Church prohibits the reading of the Scriptures, and that no Bibles are to be found amongst the Catholics of Ireland?

In the year 1853, the Glasgow Biblicals published their usual theory against the Catholics: their eternal speech about the Bible. The proprietor of the *Glasgow Free Press* tested their sincerity, by calling on the Scotch Soupers for ten thousand Catholic Bibles which he promised to distribute amongst Catholics. One of the most respectable Catholics in the city, who despised the lies of the Soupers, joined the *Free Press* in this matter; and engaged to be present at the distribution of the Bibles, and to mark the names of the persons receiving them. I present to your Excellency the correspondence in the *Glasgow Free Press* on this point; and here you will have an additional illustration of the old eternal lie of the Biblicals. I need scarcely tell you, that they refused to give the Bibles, and thus their mouths have been stopped in Glasgow for ever; and the eternal lie thrust down their throats amidst the scorn and the contempt of a city of more than half a million of Irish and Scotch inhabitants. The correspondence is as follows:—

"March 12, 1853."

"OFFER MADE BY THE PROPRIETOR OF THE 'FREE PRESS.'"

"There is continued cant in press and pulpit about getting Bibles for the 'poor benighted Papists,' notwithstanding our repeated offers, both public and private, to distribute a few thousand copies of the Holy Scriptures to our poorer Catholic brethren in Glasgow and vicinity, provided we got them supplied gratis. The assertion is so often and so confidently repeated, by persons who know better, that the Catholic clergy forbid the use of the Bible to their flocks, that there are not a few benevolent Protestants, who believe this to be the case. Now, there is no use in arguing with these people, no use in denying it. They will have it that it is so, and there is an end of it. If these zealous Bible lovers are sincere in their desire to put their poorer fellow-countrymen in possession of the holy writings, let them contribute amongst themselves enough of charitable funds to supply us with 10,000 Douay Bibles, and we will undertake that each of our subscribers will take a copy at half price, and the others circulated amongst the faithful poor; and if required, a receipt shall be forthcoming from the persons receiving, for every copy gratuitously disposed of. Will this offer be accepted? We don't think it will; for it would defeat the object of those who live by deceiving the over-credulous, whose money is obtained under the mask of religion and zeal for making the Word of God known to the ungodly."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLASGOW EXAMINER.

77 Charlotte-street, Glasgow, March 31, 1853.

SIR—As I would be very sorry that so many of my fellow-Catholics should be deprived of your generous offer of 10,000 Bibles, for want of a guarantee that they would be properly distributed, I would take leave to suggest the following, which in my opinion would be quite sufficient, and ought to satisfy you—viz., that in each of the districts of Glasgow, six or eight respectable Protestant gentlemen (by you) requested to superintend the distribution, and see that every one of the 10,000 copies is put into the hands of Catholics: they shall have my personal assistance, and that of the Catholic clergymen in the different districts, if they wish. Hoping that this will satisfy you, and that we shall get the Bibles, I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

M. JEFFREY.

I need scarcely tell the Earl of Carlisle that the Soupers never issued one Bible to the Catholics of Glasgow; and as your Excellency knows the Scotch character; and as you are aware that the most contemptible imaginable thing in Scotland is Protestantism, the challenge of the *Glasgow Free Press*, and the refusal of the Soupers to give the Bibles, has at one blow annihilated Souperism for ever in the city of Glasgow.

The moment, my Lord, this letter to your Excel-

lency will appear in the public journals I shall be answered by the Souper agents, contradicting Pope Pius VI., Dr. Denvir, and Dr. Murray; authorities will be adduced, the very contrary of the Pope and the Bishops; and all these authorities adduced by the Soupers will be a greater lie than the original lie in reference to the Scriptures.

The fact is, that the English Government are to blame for this wretched state of the Protestant Church; England and her Government have paid and pampered the Protestant Church into luxurious fever, and into insane extravagance. All the world knows, that they resemble Nero and Heliogabalus much more than Paul; their palaces are more like the banquetting room of Balshassar than the College of the Apostles. Their lives and character have banished true Christianity from England; their varieties of faith have unsettled the very foundation of Christianity; indifference, immorality, and infidelity, have been the melancholy result of this open departure from Christian faith and discipline; and England at this moment presents a nation more sunk in crime than Pagan Rome; as remote from the Christian faith as Mahomedanism; she has millions of her population decidedly more ignorant of Christian letters than the ancient Picts and Scots.

It is a shame for the present English Government to have encouraged, to have tolerated this Biblical profligacy; the evangelical imposture, this comedy on Calvary, this jibe on the Cross—Protestantism in England is now a National joke: Lord John Russell, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Government-Commissioners, all declare that real Christianity is gone in England, that ignorance covers the land, and that infidelity is the creed of the reformed English.—The foremost statesmen of England have always condemned the Protestant Church in Ireland; but the Nations of Europe all now are loud against its avowed infidelity in England. I shall conclude this letter by quoting the opinions on this subject of men not unknown to your Excellency; and if such are the opinions of high English statesmen, in the times referred to, what would now be their sentiments, on beholding millions, tens of millions, hundreds of millions expended on a system of slander, calumny, lies and infidelity, which has never had a parallel in the records of religious imposture and national injustice?—The quotations are as follows, in reference to the Protestant Irish Church:—

Mr. Macaulay, M.P.—"My own opinion is that the church of Ireland is a bad institution. It is my opinion that of all the institutions now existing in the civilized world, the Established Church of Ireland is the most utterly absurd and indefensible.—There is but one country in the world that presents to you the spectacle of a population of 8,000,000 of people with a church established and richly endowed for only 800,000 of that population."

Lord Campbell—"I believe the Protestant Church in Ireland to be one of the most mischievous institutions in existence. I believe it is so considered now; I believe it will be so considered by posterity; and it is only because your lordships are familiar with it that you are not shocked by the picture? Can there be any wonder that the Roman Catholics are discontented?"

Lord Brougham—"As long as the foulest practical abuse that ever existed in any civilized country continues untouched, or touched only with a faltering hand—the Irish Church is lavishly endowed for a sixth part of the Irish people as if more than double its whole number could partake of its ministrations—there assuredly never can be peace for that ill-fated land."

Lord John Russell—"The appropriation of the whole of the revenues which the state allows and recognises as the revenues of the Established Church, to the clergy of a small portion of the people, is in itself an anomaly and a grievance."

Sir George Grey—"The Irish church was a unjustifiable in its establishment, and is indefensible in its continuance."

Earl Grey—"I regard the Irish church, in the actual condition of that country, and upon the footing on which it is placed, to be opposed alike to justice, to policy, and to religious principle. I regard that church as the great obstacle to the spread of Protestantism in Ireland." I have the honor to be, my lord, your Excellency's obedient servant,

D. W. CAHILL, D.D.

THE PURITAN SABBATH.

The following extracts are from an excellent article in the April number of the *Westminster Review*—the ablest of the Protestant periodical press in Great Britain and Ireland; and whose attachment to the Non-Catholic, or Protestant faith is incontestable. Of the Puritans, he says:—

"They infected English society with a vague and unmeaning gloom. Not to be happy became through-