

Scored Heart Review. PROTESTANT CONTROVERSY.

BY A PROTESTANT MINISTER. LXIII. I purpose making some remarks on certain parts of Dean Hodges' recent course of lectures on the Reformation and counter-reformation.

Of course these lectures are entirely different from the virulent and vulgar performances of a John Moore. Dean Hodges does not forget that he is a Christian and a gentleman.

I need not say what we all know, that the evil of this time culminated in Pope Alexander VI. Even deducting all the exaggerations of indignation or of malice, Father Ryder of the Ostrary is well justified in calling him "a monster."

Julius II. and Leo X. were very different men from Alexander and from each other, yet neither of them was a man of spiritual mind.

Dean Hodges, however, might have done well to adduce the evidence brought forward by Professor Pastor of the large amount of simple and steadfast faith and goodness found throughout Italy in the very worst times of the Renaissance.

Dean Hodges is quite right in saying that the need of reform in the Church was imperative. When he says, though, that Luther was the appointed instrument of reform, exception might be taken.

Doctor Hodges says that if Christ had appeared at Rome in the fifteenth century, He would have been crucified. This is a form of speech which I confess jars unpleasantly on the ear.

With the one great exception, of which I shall speak presently, I can not call one such name to mind.

are at liberty to come to the daily Mass, we say "come." Nor is this exhortation to be taken as addressed exclusively to the devout female sex.

When a vacillating, weak-kneed, ignorant Catholic gives scandal to the Church he is censured—and should be. It is such scandals that bar the way against many good Catholic Christians, preventing them from uniting with the true Church.

His satanic majesty is far seeing, and notwithstanding that his object is vindictive, yet he inadvertently tells some glittering truths.

Charles C. Starbuck. 12 Meacham street, North Cambridge, Mass.

THE DAILY MASS.

A better attendance at the daily Mass is a consummation devoutly to be wished. There are seasons of special devotion when the faithful do attend in gratifyingly large numbers.

Of course the good people who drive close bargains with God make it a point to give Him only so much of their time as He only asks.

Thomas Kempis in the first chapter of his Fourth Book gently complains of the indifference of men to the ineffable gift of the Eucharist and indulges in this reflection: "If the most Holy Sacrament were celebrated in only one place and consecrated only by one priest in the whole world with how great yearning, think you, would men yearn to go to that place and that priest that they might behold the celebration of the Divine mysteries."

Pity, in its strict sense, is fidelity to duty, and the piety which prompts men or women to neglect the duties of their state, that they may linger in the House of the Lord, is a delusion and a snare. Such should remember that, "no work is to pray." But, to those who

use to build the Church, and to perpetuity—"And to thee (Peter) will I give the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

WHY HAVE WE NOT MORE CONVERTS?

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Our First Missionary. Sacred Heart Review. The following extract from the St. Louis Globe Democrat, referring to it, does to the noble Franciscan friar who, as prior of the convent of La Ribida, did so much to make Columbus's famous voyage of discovery a reality, and who, afterwards, came to this western world by the circumnavigator, on his second voyage, will be found interesting reading.

A DYING CONVERT'S APPEAL TO RELATIVES.

Touching Deathbed Letter to His Brothers and Sisters.

The son of the late Canon of Bangor, Wales, a convert of many years, who knew he was dying, and actually breathed his last the very next day, wrote as follows on his deathbed: My dear Brothers and Sisters: Before you see this writing I shall have passed that most tremendous moment in my existence during which my condition throughout all eternity shall have been irrevocably determined; and this must be done by me certainly, nor by any one else save Him who, being my Creator, can with most just right, as my confessor, for without the strong and most convincing reasons my confidence would evidently be of no use at all.

The proof: (1) To those who believe in the inspiration of the Bible for all proof I need only cite the words of the Gospel—"Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Here we have the prom-

ise to build the Church, and to perpetuity—"And to thee (Peter) will I give the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven."

Now, that my Church is that very Church that Jesus Christ founded is quite clear, first, because there is no other Church that pretend to teach all men under pain of damnation what they are to believe and do—others are, on the contrary, only too loud in renouncing anything like infallible authority.

Jesus Christ, Creator, Redeemer, Judge of every soul, did institute a Church to which He required all men in all ages to render entire faith and obedience, as entire as to Himself.

OUR FIRST MISSIONARY.

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Some of Spain's scholars are proposing the celebration of an anniversary which has a profound interest for every one of us. It is the anniversary of the first minister of the gospel in the western hemisphere. Spain's political connection with the new world has ended forever, but her historical connection with it will endure, and some of her historians and statesmen are showing a concern in this question which is worthy of the world's commendation, especially of that part of the world comprised in the United States.

The religious part of Spain's early connection with the American continent is an episode in its history of which it has a right to be proud. The missionary spirit was particularly active in the Roman Catholic Church at the time of the discovery of the new world, and onward from Columbus's second voyage members of some of the religious order accompanied each expedition of explorers leaving Spain for this side of the Atlantic.

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FIVE-MINUTE'S SERMON.

Third Sunday in Advent. JOY AND GRATITUDE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice." The Lord is near.—PHILIP. 4. 4. In the epistle of today, the Church, in the words of the apostle St. Paul, bids us to rejoice and be glad.

How our hearts should beat with gratitude and love in anticipation of His coming! But we should not only rejoice at His advent, but show our gratitude by following Him into invitation, by receiving Him into our hearts in holy Communion.

But above all things let us glad the Infant Jesus by our charity towards our needy brethren. Try ye, shepherds who had not the good things this world gave Him.

Let us then, especially in these days before Christmas, as a preparation for this great feast, our gratitude to our Divine Saviour and our charity towards the poor and indigent, by our fervor in prayer, by frequenting the sacraments, by exertion in acquiring perfection.

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