

WHY NOT EMBRACE HER?

How an Intelligent Man Becomes a Christian.

The following excellent article is from the Evangelist, a High-church Episcopal paper. Why does not the writer come into the Catholic Church of which he speaks so admiringly?

"The great proof of the truth of the Christian religion is the existence of the Catholic Church to-day. And if the Catholic Church were destroyed the demonstration of the truth of our holy religion would be impossible. It is true that the miracles were a great proof of the power of God, especially the unmatched miracle of a man raising himself from the dead, but the truth of those miracles rests chiefly for its attestation upon the Catholic Church. The prophecies so wonderfully accomplished are another proof of the truth of his religion, in whom every jot and every tittle was fulfilled. While it is true that the prophecies depend only partly upon the testimony of the Catholic Church, since they are likewise borne witness to by our enemies, the Jews, yet that these prophecies were fulfilled in Christ rests largely upon the truthfulness of the gospel record, which receives its attestation from the Catholic Church. Without the Catholic Church, therefore, neither the miracles nor prophecies are sufficient to demonstrate the truth. Now, what reason have we for believing the Catholic Church?"

Here the inquirer interrupted with the pertinent question: "But, sir, what do you mean by the Catholic Church?"

"By the Catholic Church I mean that Church which was founded and organized by Christ Himself, which was left under the rule of the apostles as His vicars, and which remains to-day ruled over by their successors, the bishops of the Church, in direct descent from them."

"The existence of this Catholic Church to-day we declare to be a standing, perpetual miracle—a miracle which is contrary to every law which is taught us by history of the progress of human events, a miracle of which the unbeliever can give and attempt to give no explanation, a miracle which is perfectly explained by the explanation which she herself gives of it, to-wit, that she has a charmed life, protected by Almighty God, inasmuch as she is not a human but a divine body, living with a supernatural life, and indwelt by the spirit of God."

"Let the unbeliever explain these facts. No one can dispute their truth."

"1. While all the kingdoms and dynasties of the world have been swept away since Christ died upon the cross, while many different lines of monarchs have ruled over divers countries, the Catholic Church has remained unchanged, ruled over by bishops in unbroken apostolic succession. No amount of persecution has been able to break down this kingdom, nor to drive her rulers from their thrones; each of her bishops, sitting in his diocese in the throne of Christ, rules to-day as through nineteen centuries in His stead and as His vicar."

"2. While all other kingdoms and nations have changed their laws and habits, she alone has continued with an unchanged law; the law given her by Christ, constantly commented on and applied by the Holy Ghost, who dwells in her."

"3. While national traditions have changed and the history of the kingdoms of this earth have been written over and over again, each time indifferently, to suit the changes of dynasties and laws, the traditions of the Catholic Church have continued just the same from the beginning. No matter what century, what year or month, or day of what century you may read the history of, you will find the Catholic Church always delivering the same message, that she is the divine mother of souls, that Christ committed to her the richness of His treasures, that her teaching was inerrant and infallible, and that her witness was true."

"4. While new religions have sprung up, more or less like that taught by the Catholic Church, such as the Gnostic, the Donatist, the Lutheran, the Presbyterian, etc., etc., these have never endured persecutions, nor even lasted in name for more than a few centuries. Most of them have passed away entirely and we only know of them from the pages of history; others are passing away before our very eyes, viz., the Quakers. And even those which are the youngest, viz., the Methodist Episcopal and the Baptist, are swiftly changing. What a contrast

from this mushroom growth of a sect which has no witness to bear to the unbroken continuance of the Catholic Church throughout the centuries, witnessing in every age to the Christ who founded her."

"5. While other kingdoms have been founded by pandering to the lusts and ambitions of men, promising wealth, rank and power to their followers, the Catholic Church was gathered from those who joined her and sought her sacraments, drawn by the promises of being hated by the world, reviled for righteousness' sake, tortured and put to death for the name of Christ. Such was the promised end, and the law of that kingdom was and is to trample down the human will, to bring it into subjection to the law of Christ. Fasting, poverty, virginity—these were the attractions which the Catholic Church had to offer! And yet, greatest of all miracles, for the hope of a smile and a blessing from Christ, multitudes have been ready in every age to leave all and follow her. Heaven is full of those who gladly laid down their lives for the faith of the Catholic Church."

"6. While the kingdoms of the world have been founded by the great and powerful, the Catholic Church was rested by Christ upon the foundation of twelve humble, ignorant peasants of a conquered province, and yet these twelve first bishops of the Catholic Church and their successors in about three hundred years converted the whole civilized world to the worship of Christ."

"7. While other religions have set up divers great and powerful beings as gods, the God the Catholic Church taught the world to worship was the convict of Palestine, the crucified malefactor, who hung by the sentence of the Roman Governor upon the tree of Calvary!"

"No man of education, whether a believer or no, can deny these facts, and in the face of these facts we declare the belief in the Catholic Church a logical necessity. No natural explanation can be produced which will explain her life, her history, her existence to-day; the supernatural explanation which she herself has been giving for almost two thousand years explains it fully. Until some other which is more probable is found, as rational beings we are bound to accept this one and to regulate our faith and life accordingly."

The man seemed much impressed and answered:

"I now clearly understand your position. Once granting that the Catholic Church is what she claims to be, then the book which she declares to be divine must be so, and the explanation of that book which she gives must be divine likewise. I must have time to think further."

That man was not far from the kingdom of God, but while he was thinking he died—he lost his chance, untouched with the cleansing waters, unjoined to Christ; still the child of wrath he went to meet his Judge. To think is good, to do is better, and "put not off from day to day," lest you lose your reward. How many souls have perished because, while convinced in their minds of the truth of the Christian religion and of the Church's claims, they have put off seeking her communion until death comes and the seal is set to their obstinate refusal of God's loving offer of salvation.—*Philadelphia Catholic Times*.

PRAYING TO THE SAINTS.

The saints are friends of God. They are like the angels in heaven. We honor them, not as we honor God, but on account of the relation they bear to God. They are creatures of God, the work of His hands. When we honor them, we honor God; as when we praise a beautiful painting, we praise the artist.

We do not believe that the saints can help us of themselves. But we ask them to "pray for us." We believe that everything comes to us "through Our Lord Jesus Christ." With these words all our prayers end. It is useful, salutary, and reasonable to pray to the saints and ask them to pray for us. No doubt all will admit the reasonableness of this practice if the saints can hear and help us.

It is generally conceded that it is reasonable to ask pious persons on earth to pray for us. St. Paul, in his epistles, frequently asks the Christians to pray for him. "Brethren," he says, "pray for us." It is well-known that God was pleased to answer the prayer of Abraham in favor of Abimelech. "More things

are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." Now, if we poor sinners here on earth do not pray in vain for one another, will the saints in heaven, the friends of God, who rejoice when a sinner does penance, pray in vain for us? No. We have hosts of friends in heaven to speak a good word for us. And as a child who has disobeyed his parents wisely asks a better brother or sister to intercede with his parents for mercy, so, too, having disobeyed our heavenly Father by sin, we have recourse to others better than ourselves, to our better brothers and sisters, the Blessed Virgin and saints, to intercede with God for us.

Is not this a reasonable practice?

If your mother and sister crosses the sea she will continue to pray for you. And if she crosses the sea of death will she forget you? No. The love she bore you here will continue in heaven. She will pray for you, and the "Lord will hear the prayers of the just." Ask the saints to pray to your God and their God for you. Honor God by honoring His friends and asking their intercession. And all your friends in heaven will unite in praying to the Father of us all that one day all who love God and His friends, the saints, may be admitted with them into the company of the Saints of Saints, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—*Rev J. J. Burke*.

THE WORLD AROUND.

The Emperor of Germany is suffering terribly from ear disease.

Negotiations have been opened for a Russo Japanese treaty of commerce.

Snow two and a half feet deep is reported at Gold Park mining camp, in Colorado.

The Spanish cabinet resigned in a body Tuesday. The trouble is thought to be due to colonial questions.

Boston and New York capitalists have formed a syndicate to purchase a line of newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

An investigation has resulted in the discovery of a shortage of \$12,600 in the accounts of Treasurer Barney, of Defiance, Ohio.

Every day of the Lexow commission's inquiry shows the unspeakable corruption and revolting savagery of the New York police.

An earthquake occurred in the Argentine Republic last Saturday, and twenty persons were killed and much damage done to property.

Snow fell Monday in nearly all of Northern Iowa and South Dakota, in some places in the latter state developing into a blizzard.

The Ihmsen Glass Company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has resumed work in its green and amber bottle factories, giving employment to a large number of men and boys.

The Italian bark Scutolo, from Philadelphia for Naples, has been boarded by pirates off Mirror Neuvo, Africa, who plundered the vessel and escaped with 1,000 boxes of petroleum.

It is rumored that Lord William Beresford, who won the Victoria Cross during the Zulu war, is about to marry the Duchess of Marlborough, formerly Mrs. Hammersley, of New York.

Dr. Crowell, the foremost exponent of spiritualism in this country, died in New York City Monday. During the Know-Nothing movement Crowell was one of the leaders of that party in California.

A large Hungarian boarding-house at Laurel Run, Penn., was blown up by dynamitards at 3 o'clock last Sunday morning. Three of the inmates were killed outright, four fatally injured, and half dozen seriously hurt.

Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg has been appointed governor of Alsace-Lorraine. Freiherr Marschall von Bieberstein, secretary of State for foreign affairs, has been appointed a member of the Prussian cabinet without portfolio.

Carl Schurz in a speech at Cooper Union, Monday night, before the Reform Democrats, bitterly denounced Senator Hill as a traitor to his party and advised all Democrats to vote for Everett P. Wheeler, the Reform Democratic candidate.

While President Casimir Perier was visiting the Pasteur Institute, he was introduced by Prof. Pasteur to Dr. Roux, the originator of the new remedy for diphtheria. The President warmly con-

gratulated Dr. Roux upon his success in perfecting and applying the serum treatment and conferred upon him the Cross of Commander of the Legion of Honor. Dr. Roux, in replying, praised Drs. Behring and Loeffler, the German bacteriologists, whom he referred to as the real discoverers of the new remedy.

Buenos Ayres was earthquake last Saturday. Churches and other buildings went down like nine pins. The seismic disturbance extended over the Argentine Republic and throughout Chili. Two thousand lives were lost.

One hundred and fifty Americans assembled at the tomb of Gen. Lafayette, in the Picpus Cemetery, Paris, France, on Friday, October 19, 1894, to perform the annual ceremony of placing an emblem upon the grave. Captain Nathan Appleton, of Boston, the delegate of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, delivered a brief address, and deposited a bronze marker and tablet, the emblem of the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, on the grave. Capt. Appleton recalled the part taken in the struggle for the independence of the United States by Gen. Lafayette, and M. Gaston de Lafayette responded. Other members of the Lafayette family were present, as were Lieut. Shune, Lieut. Pusey, Deputy Remusat, the Marquise de Chambrun, Newton Eustis, Commander Kellogg, Mrs. Charles A. Dana and daughter, Misses Martha and Florence Singer, Erastus Corning, United States Consul-General Morse, Mrs. Morse and Miss Morse.

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PUBLIC NOTICE.

Public notice is hereby given that the Fabrique of the Parish of St. Louis of Montreal will apply to the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, at the next session of the same, to obtain a Bill granting civil erection of said Parish and the power to impose an assessment to complete the construction of the Church. Montreal, 3rd November, 1894. P. G. MARTINEAU, Attorney for the Petitioner. 16-5

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