

Catholic Church, I am reminded of the memorable words spoken by Ex-President Roosevelt before the American mission at Khartoum: "I wish I could make every member of a Christian church feel that just in so far as he spends his time in quarrelling with other Christians of other churches, he is helping to discredit Christianity in the eyes of the world," and I feel inclined to pass over these attacks with silent contempt.

At any rate, we Catholics are not anxious to quarrel over religion with our Protestant fellow-citizens. We have every regard for their religious convictions; we believe that the great majority of them are sincere and on the side of God and we hope some day to meet them in our common home beyond the stars, there to be friends and brothers for evermore.

But we have a right to expect as much from them, and so we cannot stand by in silence and allow that which is most sacred and most dear to our hearts, our holy religion, to be slandered and blackmailed and held up to ridicule before the world.

Our plain duty, both for our own edification and for the enlightenment of fair-minded non-Catholics is to speak out fearlessly, to vindicate and defend our holy faith against these slanderous attacks.

When analyzing that famous, or I should rather say, infamous sermon on Roman Catholicism, we are at once confronted with the ignorance, want of education and bigotry displayed by its author.

It is a conglomeration of disconnected statements, some true, some indifferent and others absolutely false, none of which he actually does prove and most of which he could not prove if he tried to. In that one sermon he reviews the history of well nigh seven or eight centuries and discusses nearly all the doctrines of the Catholic Church. He alludes to the proverbial darkness of the middle ages, sings the praises of Luther, Cromwell, Good Queen Bess, and the Reformation and comments upon the religious history of modern

European nations. He condemes the Eucharist and the mass, and the whole of religious ceremonies, touches upon marriage, divorce, celibacy, the Ne Temere Decree, ridicules confession and the doctrine of indulgences, calumniates the Jesuits, repeats the old charges of the chained Bible, and the Church's opposition to science and education and says a last farewell to Catholic idols, the reign of priests, the horrors of purgatory and the corruptions of Rome in general.

You see it would be impossible in one sermon to deal with so many and such varied subjects, I have therefore tried to classify the Doctor's statements and shall deal with them in order.

Our first discourse might be entitled "Catholic and Protestant nations."

Let us first peruse some of Dr. Gordon's statements with reference to these.

"But the magnificent pageant which so impressed a certain portion of the population of Montreal a short time ago, is the very thing of which France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Belgium and Spain, have grown weary.

"What is it that the Roman Catholic believer objects to, in his own religion? For, be it known, that the most persistent critics of Roman Catholicism are to be found in Roman Catholic countries! The people who are protesting the most against the encroachments of Rome, to-day, are Roman Catholics.

"Today the Anglo-Saxon race with its two splendid divisions, Britain and her colonies and the American sisterhood of states, is the backbone of Protestantism—and Protestantism is the hope of the world.

"We also have the test of actual experience. Those are days when men travel. A man of moderate means can 'see the world.' It does not cost a fortune to pass from North America to South America. Mark the contrast! Here is Protestantism and Roman Catholicism laid out in a splendid geographical contrast, beneath the skies of the new world. The waves of his-