

against the doctrines of the church and her practices, have been answered hundreds of times over and over again.

Any, honest mind in search of truth can find answers in Catholic books to the malignant falsehoods made by Mrs. Shepherd against the church. The confessional—the usual stock in trade of ex nuns who are hunting for the dollars of gullible Protestants—is grossly misrepresented. It is a very curious fact that only those who lecture for “25c. for ladies only,” have such horrible tales to unfold.

I am asked why we do not vindicate the doctrines of the church and her practices. The doors of the Catholic Church are open every Sunday, her doctrines and practices are explained there, her literature, edifying and pure, is within the reach of all. Her members are not bound by oath to any secrecy, so that the inquiring Protestant can find out what she is, what she teaches, what she practices and what her members are without resorting to a worse than doubtful source for information.

Human nature is weak, and as there are certain classes in this and every town who delight in attending indecent entertainments, so there are those who under the cloak of religion delight in the purient and vile. The more vile and more indecent the lecture, the more welcome the lecturer.

All we Catholics ask for is fair play and equal rights. Leave aside prejudice and judge the church as she is and has been from the beginning. Is it possible that the religion of over 250 millions leads to immorality? Is it possible that the religion that could satisfy such great, pure and holy men as St. Augustine, St. Thomas of Aquinas, St. Bernard, Cardinals Manning and Newman, the Wilberforce brothers, and thousands of others equally famous, is low and vile. Surely such men could never submit to the Catholic Church if she were what Mrs. Shepherd represents.

The church has nothing to hide. She fearlessly proclaims her doctrines and courts investigation. Men who desire to know what she is and what she teaches can learn from the list of books I submit at the end of this little pamphlet. Surely a fair and honest mind could hardly expect to find justice done us in the over-suggestive pages of Mrs. Shepherd's book written for so much a piece. It is the old story over again of our divine Saviour and Barabbas. The Jews who crucified Him could hardly be expected to bear witness to His divinity, although they had witnessed His divine power, yet preferred Barabbas to Him. As surely as our Lord proved to the unbelieving Thomas His resurrection by the marks of the nails in His hands, so surely does the church prove her divine mission by the marks and signs that characterize her; notwithstanding, blinded by prejudice and passion, as the Jews of old, the cry is raised against the Catholic Church as it rose against our Divine Saviour—