

Current Catholic Thought.

TRUE RELIGION NECESSARILY EXCLUSIVE.

That the Catholic religion is exclusive; that it will not recognize any other religion as the true religion is certainly the fact. But this is not unreasonable, nor does it make Catholics bigots, but just the contrary. It is contrary to the reason of things that there can be more than one religion. For truth is one and ever the same. Whatever varies from the truth must necessarily be false to the exact extent of its variation from the truth. This the reason of man teaches must be the fact in very form and relation of truth. It is true in physical science. It is an axiom in physics that two bodies cannot occupy the same space at the same time. It is self-evident truth that there cannot be more than one straight line between the same two points; that every curve that is not equally distant from a common central point is not truly circular; that a true square cannot have more nor less than four sides, each of which must be equal, and each of the angles that they form must be right angles; and that it is impossible that any other figure can be a true square.

So, too, mathematics comes in with its positive testimony to the same truth, and is equally exclusive and is entirely intolerant of what contradicts its established principles and truths. It acknowledges but one multiplication table. The relation of numbers are fixed and unchangeable. The numerical sum of two and two must be four and cannot be anything else. The numerical difference of seven and four is always three, and cannot be any

other number. Are, then, the physicist, the geometrician, the arithmetician, *bigots* because they insist upon and act upon these truths, and refuse to acknowledge any variations from them. They would consider, and the whole world with them would consider, the man a fool who found fault with them for so doing. Now, thus it is with Catholics. They are *exclusive* in their religious belief, but they are not therefore *bigots*. They are firm, unchangeably firm, in their adherence to the Church, because those teachings are infallibly true. They will not acknowledge or recognize as true opinions or beliefs that contradict those teachings, because what contradicts truth is necessarily untrue. They are not *unreasonable*, because highest reason demands that truth shall always be accepted, believed, embraced, and that what contradicts it should be rejected. They are not *blind* because their adherence to the truth they believe is founded on sound reason and is the result of intelligent conviction.—*Catholic Standard, Philadelphia.*

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY.

The charity of Catholics, their hospitals, their orphan asylums, their homes for the aged, their religious orders composed of men and women who are strangers to what the world calls pleasures, and have banded together for the glory of God and welfare of souls, cannot fail to win the attention of honest non-believers, who from these evidences of devotion and supernatural grace are moved to seek the road to truth. Truly men do not live for themselves alone, but by their conversation and their examples they are moulding the opinions of their associates. This thought should be an incentive to every Catholic to practise his religion if he were otherwise unfortunately careless in its observance.—*Church News.*

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