

to it, the more public respect shall we secure for ourselves and holy religion. Indeed, it is absolutely necessary in a country like ours, where religious tracts from Protestant societies, and pamphlets and periodicals full of obscenity, are borne over the land like leaves before the autumn winds, that Catholic journals be published everywhere, and that no sacrifice be spared for this noble purpose and for the encouragement of those already in existence.

If the clergy espouse the cause of Catholic journalism they will find advocates and supporters of the good work. Let us use our talents, for God will grant us grace and ability, that we may, by so powerful a means as is the press, disseminate the principles of truth in order to overthrow error. The light of truth is far more calculated to dispel the darkness of error from the mind than the light of the sun the darkness of night. Why are there so many talents lying profitless among us? Why so many pens idle? Why so many tongues silent, when they might day after day preach the good things of the gospel of Christ? Let us rest assured that God has given to everyone of us his vocation, his sphere of action and holy influence wherein to proclaim to those around him that faith which maketh wise unto salvation. Let us not be cowards—let us exhibit as much determination and courage for the propagation of truth as its enemies display for the dissemination of error.

How true are not the remarks which we read in the *N. Y. Freeman's Journal*, Aug. 10, 1880, about what the Catholic press has done in Germany:

"The part played by the Catholic press of Germany in sending Bismarck on his pilgrimage to Canossa has never been done adequate justice to. This press was the creation of humble German priests almost entirely. If Catholicity is still a great power for good in Prussia, it is to the zeal of her clerical journalists that the triumph of Protestant orthodoxy, lately devoted three columns to the departure of Dr. Falkenberg, the editor of the *Germania*, for Posen, where he had been summoned to fill a high ecclesiastical office by the archbishop. It writes us if the removal of this illustrious priest from the sphere of journalism was a cause of great joy. Nothing could better express the fear and hate which the valiant priests who edit so many German Catholic papers have inspired in the past. And this fear and hate are

natural. For years they have held in check the coalized forces of Protestantism and infidelity. They descended into the arena armed with a pen instead of a sword, and the man of blood and iron went down before them. Well might Bishop Ketteler exclaim at the sight of such victories: 'If St. Paul were to return to earth he would be an editor!'

And certainly these victories were marvellous. The Prussian government had planned its action with infernal cleverness. It had gained a considerable portion of the Catholic aristocracy and aided the rebellion of Dollinger and other able scholars. The peril was extreme, and it did look at one time as if a considerable portion of the faithful would be led astray.

"The establishment of an able and energetic Catholic press averted the danger, and swept Bismarck's reptiles back to their holes.

"In this respect, as in many others, the Kulturkampf was a blessing in disguise. Before it there were hardly any Catholic journals in Germany, and Protestant, or so-called liberal papers, swayed the currents of public opinion in many Catholic families. When the May laws came into operation the German clergy soon perceived the danger created by this condition of things. They saw the remedy also. They originated a pulpit as vast as the empire: from it they preached courage to the weak, exposed the wiles and denounced the crimes of their oppressors, and aroused a spirit of resistance that triumphed over all obstacles.

"Dr. Boeddinghaus founded the *Westfale* and *Merkur* in Munster. Majunke established the *Germania*, and soon all the great cities had their *presskaplan* and their Catholic journal. Among the most ardent and able were those founded by Fathers Kanteki in Posen, Franz in Breslau, Schroeder in Paderborn, Scheeben in Cologne, Dabach in Treves, and many others whose high literary character and widespread influence make them admired and feared.

"The joy expressed by the *Kreuzzeitung* at the departure of the late editor of the *Germania*, although it seems rather silly, is certainly a significant tribute to the glorious career of Catholic journalism in Germany."

END OF CHAPTER III.

KEEP YOURSELF faithfully in the presence of God.

HOLINESS consists not in doing uncommon things, but in doing all common things with an uncommon fervor.

REASON and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.—GEORGE WASHINGTON.