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"I am in the place where I am demanded of Conscience to speak the truth, and therefore the truth I speak, impugn it who list."—JOHN KNOX.

Toronto, November 30, 1893.

Rome and Reason.

FROM a letter in another column it will be observed that Rev. L. H. Jordan takes exception to our remarks of last week in reference to the Church of Rome at the Congress of Religions at Chicago. The letter is well worth a careful perusal. To those who can see eye to eye with Mr. Jordan, there is cause for rejoicing—and this much may be said, to those who cannot adopt so sanguine a view as his, it is at least a significant sign of the times, that there are devoted and enlightened Protestants who can see so much that is fraught with bright promise in the future of the Church of Rome. Were a radical, fundamental change to take place in the constitution and creed of that Church, bringing her on a common platform with Protestant beliefs, what a religious and intellectual revolution there would be! Even such a consummation is not beyond the highest flights of hope, but hard facts preclude the conclusion that such an end can be reached by a logical sequence from the present differentiating doctrines of Rome as a starting-point. A development of Roman Catholicism which would accord with its dominating tenets would be a backward one. Whatever outward changes may be observed, and they are necessarily many, must not be confounded with a natural growth as is seen in, say the Presbyterian Church. This is not a matter of speculation; the truth of the statement may be found, not probably in the methods of work, but in the written and preached doctrines of Romanism.

Reverting to Mr. Jordan's letter, a word of explanation might seem to be necessary. Our remarks were based on the assumed accuracy of an interview given by Mr. Jordan to the Montreal Star. It was stated that Mr. Jordan said "the Roman Catholic Church is always willing to submit its dogmas to the test of reason." We did not observe a contradiction in the Star, whose readers as well as our own we have placed under an obligation by giving Mr. Jordan an opportunity of correcting that statement. When he says: "Not even yet does it submit its dogmas to that test," little remains between us on that point. But as to the true and real progress of Roman Catholicism, which he asserts, we essentially differ. Nor will it do for Canadians to be blind to the actual state of things in that body. When this continent is cited to prove an advance in enlightenment, Mr. Jordan is surely rash. What has he to say of Quebec, of the reports of the Board of French Evangelization, of the tithes, the parish system,

the separate schools, the suppression of public criticism, and so forth? These are facts which cannot be set aside by a few strokes of the pen, and their source is to be found in the mediæval spirit of the Church of Rome. A dangerous secularism is working in France, Italy and Spain, and the Church of Rome bends to meet that which she cannot crush. This differs from the rigidity of her "ancient ecclesiastical" methods, of a change of spirit, of a new heart, would there were some tangible sign! The incident at Chicago is a small one, indeed, and only one more evidence of very many which show how accommodating Romanism can be when an object has to be gained. We believe there has been too much coddling of error for the sake of good feeling and peace. The Christian charity and love for all men, which is prayed for, can only live where the conditions have been properly adjusted, and that can never be at the expense of truth. Yet, having due regard to the importance of preserving Protestant principles intact, it is obvious that kindness and genuine sympathy must be the spirit in which the Roman Catholic problem should be viewed. Consorting with their dignitaries and taking counsel on questions of common interest, may not undermine Protestantism and may do much to win Roman Catholics to greater liberality of thought and, eventually, of doctrine.

Centennial Celebration.

RECENTLY an interesting celebration took place in Little Washington, Pa. It was in honour of the centenary of Presbyterianism in Western Pennsylvania. The Presbytery of Redstone was founded in 1781, by men whose names such as McMillan, Dodd, Smith and Power became household words in the State. The event was made much of in Pennsylvania, and although the chief interest centered on Little Washington as the starting point of the Presbytery, the celebration was participated in by many distinguished men from all parts of the State. The history of the Presbytery afforded much material to be thankful for, and the publication of it is calculated to deepen the interest of the young in the noble past of the Church.

Late Rev. H. S. McKittrick, B.A.

THE death of Rev. H. S. McKittrick, B.A., the announcement of which was made recently, evoked the following minute from the session of Knox church, Galt, Ont., which we gladly reproduce: "The Session have learned with deep sorrow of the death of our young brother, the Rev. H. S. McKittrick, B.A., at Tarsus, Asia Minor, and would place on record this expression of their sorrow for the loss sustained by his death and their sympathy for his young widow and her family and the family of Mr. McKittrick. He had devoted himself to the work with great enthusiasm; the school had opened the present term with full classes; the new staff of teachers was only getting down to regular work; the promise of the work was most encouraging; and the bright and instructive letters of Mrs. McKittrick were awakening great interest in the school and its work; and now his personal work in the Institute and the Mission field is ended. Less than twelve months ago, Dr. Christie, the new President of St. Paul's Institute, called Mr. McKittrick in the Master's name from work in the Home field to work in the Foreign, from personally preaching the Gospel to the additional work of training others to preach it, and now the Master Himself has called him up higher. He knows best. In our ignorance we thought of years of work by two earnest and devoted young Christians, and we wished them