

order, if possible, to avoid passing through Rome on their way to their destination, so great was their horror of breathing, even for a day, the same atmosphere with the "man of sin,"—that is, the Holy Father! But a little—indeed, very little—well-directed inquiry might have enabled them to satisfy their minds that there is not in the world a community of human beings, their numbers and general situation considered, so free from vice as are the Roman people. Exceptions to this representation no doubt occur from time to time, under the form of robberies and assassinations. But, on the other hand, if the corruption of the female sex extend to any considerable degree—which is believed not to be the case—at least it is hidden from the eye of the world—a homage to virtue which we certainly cannot boast of with reference to London, Edinburgh, or Dublin. One need only go into the churches on Sundays to see how well they are attended by both sexes, from an early hour in the morning to midday, and at vespers in the afternoon. During the week-days, also, mass is celebrated in almost all public churches of Rome every half-hour, from sunrise until noon. During those hours hundreds of the faithful may be seen kneeling on the bare floor round the side chapels.

(To be continued).

All letters and remittances are to be forwarded, free of postage, to the Editor, the Very Rev. Wm. P. McDonald, Hamilton.

THE CATHOLIC.

Hamilton, G. D.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

RELIGIOUS SWINDLING.

This may be truly designated the age of religious swindling. The villany began in England; the most speculating country of any in commercial enterprise, carried on by joint stock companies, and partnerships, to a prodigious extent, in every possible way of acquiring wealth; though all this in a mercantile sense, or where value is tendered for value received, may be strictly honest, honourable and praise worthy. But, in this same country, we find another set of speculating jobbers, not so blamelessly intent on bettering their temporal circumstances; those evidently alluded to by the chief Apostle, who, "through covetousness, with feigned speeches, make merchandize of you." (2 Pet. 2, 3.) These are our *Tract and Bible mongers*: a set of hypocritical harpers; who, some thirty years ago, were shrewd enough to perceive that in the Protestant's high-prized *rule of faith*, the dead letter of the scripture, or the *printed Bible*; they could originate a most lucrative speculation; and one, which could not but be cherished, supported, and promoted by the zealous members of all Protestant sects; whose common principle it is to reject the authoritative interpretation of the church (Matt. 18, 17), and abide every one by his own opinion.

The bait took. The Protestant public of every denomination gave headlong into

the snare laid for them. Subscriptions and donations came pouring in from every quarter, to the inventors of this press-made-paper-Apostleship. Advertisements in all the public journals; and placards posted up in all frequented situations, did for them, in their Bible traffic, what such had done for a Solomon in the sale of his incomparable nostrum, his all surpassing *balm of Gilead*. This, in a word, was the hopeful origin of that mock evangelical delusion, so craftily grounded on the vital principle of universal Protestantism; a thing struck up to raise the wind by a fundless firm; now known as *the Bible Society*. To preclude all suspicion of misapplication of the east contributed towards the support and furtherance of this printer's bubble, early care was taken by its interested inventors to solicit, and get ingrafted into their firm, not the persons, but the names of the most illustrious and high-titled individuals in the land. These they incessantly trumpeted forth as the approving patrons of their pious proceedings; nominal partners in the undertaking; not such as would trouble themselves in the cash details; whose coveted meed was *praise*; not *self*; with which lust they were supposed abounding, some droppings of which they would rather let fall into the treasury, as a further inducement to the blazing forth of their fame. Between these and the former, *pay and puff* was the order of the day. The party, however, more immediately concerned in this nefarious speculation thus effectually screened their villany from the public mistrust. For who could ever suspect dishonesty in those, whose scheme was sanctioned, lauded, supported and promoted by all the great and learned, whom Protestantism could boast of? Yet look in the *pro forma* statement of this joint stock, bible-making, money-begging company; at the enormous sums annually received by them from their well-meaning dupes of every Protestant persuasion; and then ask yourself (in the absence of all informers, but the very receivers), what becomes of all this gratis-growing treasure; augmented vastly as it is besides by the extensive sale (amounting to at least nine-tenths) of their ten times paid-for printed Bibles? This much we can tell the much imposed-on Protestant public (for Catholics are placed beyond the delusion; having purer Biblical versions of their own; and *the church*, assigned by Christ, as their sole and sure expounder. Matt. 18, 17), this we can assure the dupes of their bible quacks, that of the millions of Bibles, reported as sent out yearly for distribution to foreign countries; not so many thousands (and these too for sale, wherever they can be so disposed of), are ever actually exported. In our seaports there are agents appointed to receive and forward, as directed, their tract and Bible packages; containing what numbers the senders choose to specify. These are merely identified, but never counted over at the custom house; and a *bona fide* certificate is returned to the directing party; which is carefully registered at their office, as proof positive of the correspond-

ing outlay with the reported income. We have been assured, in a way not to doubt the fact, that in Liverpool one of their trusty agents, was in the habit, after passing his packages at the custom-house, of embarking them in his boat, as if to be shipped on board some outward bound vessel in the offing; and then of sinking them as spoiled teas, or stores, in some unfrequented part of the river Mersey. The export ticket however proved to demonstrate that his pious cargoes were duly forwarded to their places of destination. Should any wish to be more particularly informed as to the swindling tricks and traffic of *the Bible society*; let them read, we think in the Edinburgh Review, the disputes between the Scotch and English Bible Societies, for and against the publication of *the Apocrypha*; and there they will see how *the cat was let out of the bag*, in the unguarded eagerness of the contending parties.

We have shewn in England the origin and progress of that vile, hypocritical, swindling speculation; *the Bible society*; a thing imagined purely on the trade or mercantile principle; and reared and resting on the broadest basis, of Protestantism. It soon proved a mine of wealth to its contrivers and their retainers; who had thus wily enlisted on its side all the ignorant prejudices and anti-catholic zeal of Protestant sectarianism; together with the vanity of all the self-deceiving, and would-be-deemed, *godly and charitable* of our race.

The profitable nature of this mammonic delusion was soon spied abroad, as well as at home; and universally hailed as a new and overflowing source of gain, by our reformed and reforming gospellers of every caste: whose only object, after all, is but to secure to themselves, their wives and families, a genteel and easy tempo, al living; for they are evidently of those who, as St. Peter says, "leaving the right way, have gone astray; following the way of Balaam, the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of iniquity." (2 Pet. 2.) These all over our colonies, east and west; and in the United States of America, where so many kindred spirits abound; have industriously spread, and carried on with *unusually* joint accord; among their blind and bigoted dupes, this money-making Bible traffic, to such an extent, and with such success, as, according to their own statements, to have realized cash sufficient to have more than cancelled their national debt. And yet all these prodigious collections vanish quite, as soon as made; without producing one single visible beneficial effect, or durable advantage to the community. Nay, the prowling hydra that swallows all, is as hungry and clamorous for more as ever. The Bible traffic alone cannot minister to the monster's cravings. And though, to recommend its sale, the printed Bible is proclaimed *all and sole* sufficing; and all other word or writing profane and inadmissible; yet (besides other furnishing shifts to cram the ravenous monster's maw, such as sabbath schools, revivals, camp-meetings, rag-bag and mita societies; and daily beggingbrother and sisthoods, all

for what is called *the Lord's treasury*), the tract peddling speculation is super-added to the Bible one; and vagrant evangelism to boot, with the most glaring possible inconsistency.

Quo non mortalia pectora cogis auri sacra fames?

So that the whole Protestant system has ended at last in a *printer's bubble*; a *tract and bible peddling apostleship*; and a *paper reformation*!

No learning in this new religious system; no instruction whatever is required, but just as much as may enable one to read. All knowledge of the past, present and future, derivable from our fellow creatures, and the testimony of man, is utterly discarded, as *fallible* and *falsacious*. The Bible alone (that is our English Protestant version of it; full of errors purposely as well as ignorantly made; and disagreeing with all previous and subsequent translations, but sanctioned by a British monarch, and his *infallible* Parliament), this British bible (read, understand and interpret it, as you please), is your only sure and soul-saving monitor and instructor. All preaching, or teaching besides, is but the word of man; Tracts, too, and all written or unwritten testimony, as *essentially fallible*, must never be relied on. This is every Protestant's professed belief; and that, as we observed, on which *the Bible Society* has built its money-making speculation. This is that loudly lauded, and much admired mode of universal conversion and modern *evangelism*. Why did not the all-wise founder of christianity reveal to his followers this Bible scheme? It would have spared them a world of difficulty and danger in propagating every where his holy religion. Their only duty would then have been to print off, and cause to be generally circulated, a sufficiency of Bibles in every language. Such a mechanical method of instruction would have rendered unnecessary all their toil and risks by sea and land; and saved them even the expense of their journeys. Nay, it would have proved to them, as it has done to our Bible Society men, an inexhaustible and easy wrought mine of treasure. Instead of carrying the Saviour's ignominious cross they might have wielded the golden rod of mammon; and made, with the monopoly of a Bible press, all the nations of the earth their tributaries. What a glorious spectacle it would then have been to behold thus evangelised and enlightened the whole family of Adam; all at length become Bible readers, scripture searchers, truth explorers, free expounders, random guessers, bold affirmers, loud protesters, and tireless scheming reformers. Then would have taken place at the beginning what we have been blessed with in our day—

A godly thorough reformation;
Which always must be carried on;
And still be doing; never done;
As if religion were intended
For nothing else, but to be mended.

We cannot account for the receipt of the Chippawa papers: they are sent from our office regularly.