

PRIEST VS. PARSON.

Catholic Missionary Speaks in Protestant Pulpit and Puzzles Preacher.

Glemons, I.A., is a typical western town, Protestant in sentiment and population. It has been a fruitful field for intolerance, and lectures on the abominations of Rome.

To dispel this bigotry, Rev. Denis Lundo, pastor of St. Anthony's for whom Rev. Father Angelo, of the Passionate Order, Cincinnati, Ohio, was conducting a mission, recently conceived the idea of having a lecture in Glemons in order to let the truth shine there, for the good of souls.

That night the beautiful and spacious church was crowded and among the audience was the Campbellite, or as he is called, the Christian minister, the Rev. D. H. Helfinstine, late president of the Palmer College, Le Grand, Iowa. Father Angelo in his brilliant lecture, proved here, by the minister's own bible, that Christ gave power to the apostles, and that this power has been transmitted to their successors; that this power has always been exercised from the early ages in the Catholic Church.

Minister and Priest. At the end of the lecture Rev. D. M. Helfinstine arose and confessed that the speaker in his discourse had been very fair to Protestants, but he remarked that he would like to ask Father Angelo a question.

The following is a brief resume of the discussion which ensued. The Christian Minister—Brother, I would like to ask you a question.

Father Angelo—It would afford me much pleasure to answer it. Here the reverend missionary approached to the front of the rostrum.

Minister—Is there no power to pardon sins, outside of the Catholic Church?

The Missionary—The Catholic Church alone possesses the power to forgive sin. She alone has always claimed and exercised this power, which as I proved in my lecture, has been transmitted to their lawful successors.

The minister seemed distressed and embarrassed. The Missionary—As a minister of the Christian church, do you claim the power of forgiving sin?

The Minister—No, but I go to God Himself, and I confess my sins to Him and I believe that I will be pardoned and saved.

The Missionary—If, as you say, you go to God Himself to receive pardon for your sins, what meaning do you attach to these words which I have read out of your Bible: "Whosoever sins ye remit unto them, and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained."

The minister, after an ominous silence, says: I prefer not to enter into controversy.

The missionary then gave in detail the scriptural proofs of confession.

The Missionary: Brother, tell me, do you not think that we should confess our sins to a lawfully ordained minister?

The minister remains silent.

Preacher in Silence.

The Missionary: Brother will you kindly tell me the name of your denomination?

The Minister: I am a christian minister.

The Missionary: The founder of your church is Alexander Campbell. Is he not?

The Minister: No; he is not the founder of our church.

The Missionary: It is very strange that you deny it, for the reason, that history proves that Alexander Campbell has founded the christian or Campbellite church.

The Minister: He is not the founder. The Missionary: Brother, please tell me, who has founded your church?

The minister is silent and does not answer.

The Missionary: I repeat, history proves that Alexander Campbell has established the Campbellite, or as it is now called, the Christian church. Before Alexander Campbell, there were no Campbellites or "Christians" so called.

The Minister: Well, will we not be saved?

The Missionary: Brother, you will be saved and you will enter heaven as well as myself, if you think you are in the right, that is if you are in good faith and keep the commandments and lead a good life, and follow the dictates of your conscience.

Amen, Brother. The Minister. Amen.

The Missionary: But you must be in good faith; if you doubt that your religion is the true one, you must make inquiries and find the true Church. Now, I maintain that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true Church of Christ. The old Church whose origin goes back to the first century. We claim a line of Pontiffs going back to St. Peter, the prince of the apostles. At no time has the succession been broken. From the present Pontiff, Pius X., we go back to Leo XIII., and from him to Pius IX., and from him to Gregory XVI., and thus we go back from one Pontiff to another till we come to St. Peter himself. No other Church can lay claim to this long line of Pontiffs. Therefore the Roman Catholic Church alone is the old Church founded in the first century by Christ. Am I right or am I wrong? Here Father Angelo turned to the minister and looked right into his face. But he sat in silence with his eyes cast down.

When Father Angelo perceived the embarrassment of the Rev. Mr. D. M. Helfinstine, he smilingly remarked: I am immensely pleased to have met you, brother, and I hope that if we meet here below no more, we shall meet in heaven above.

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