

Father Himes, if you would only shorten your service we would crowd your Church whenever you preach."

"Ah, my good friends," said Father Himes, "you certainly would not ask me *'to clip the King's coin.'*"—*Nebraska Ch. Guardian.*

### AFRAID TO SWEAR ALONE.

THE wicked practice of swearing which is so common as to offend the ear in every hotel, and almost in every street, is often mere bravado. Boys think it sounds manly to be profane, and men think it gives force and character to their sayings. Unlike most other vices, it is done openly, and is intended by the swearer for other people's ears. It is a public sin against God, and a public insult to all good men. The boldest blasphemers are often the greatest cowards.

"I will give you ten dollars," said a man to a profane swearer, "if you will go into the village graveyard at twelve o'clock to-night and swear the same oaths you have uttered, when you are alone with God."

"Agreed!" said the man; "an easy way to make ten dollars."

"Well, come to-morrow and say you have done it, and you shall have the money."

Midnight came. It was a night of great darkness. As he entered the cemetery not a sound was heard; all was still as death. Then came the gentleman's words to his mind. "Alone with God!" rang in his ears. He did not dare to utter an oath, but fled from the place, crying, "God be merciful to me, a sinner!"

### UNITY AND DIVISIONS.

ANOTHER point, my brethen, is to be urged. Unity will go far toward religious persuasion of the men of our country and age. "That they all may be one, and that the world may believe." Now the Church Catholic alone can secure and maintain perfect unity.

Why will you refuse Sacraments, I entreat. The reply often is, "How shall I choose where many disagree? Which guide shall lead me aright?" There is little reasonableness in the answer, for marks of the Church are manifest to him who looks carefully and without prejudice. Sometimes the answer lacks sincerity. But the wretched estate abides. Let us see to it as God gives power, that the life of division and schism be shortened. Not a syllable, nay, not a letter or sound of the essential Faith once delivered to the saints, can by us be dropped. If the Apostles said "Shibboleth," my lips cannot frame another pronunciation; if "Sibboleth," I am with them. Yet let me not by coldness or sharpness widen any breach. We can cordially recognize the belief of any article of the Creed by our fellow Christians. We can joyfully testify to ripe and sweet fruits of the Spirit among them. Where Godliness is more excellent than ours, though loyalty to the Church Catholic is lacking, let us aspire to add, that Godliness to our sacramental fidelity. From our Church Porch we can cheerfully cry out to those who are sheltered on the other side this "street, fitly called," "Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with sincerity!" The Church is responsible for none of