

enemy he desired to remove. In spite of all his smartness however, he was once badly duped.

A Mr. Von Schenck, a nobleman of Magdeburg, came to him, and offered him a handsome sum for the forgiveness of a great sin which he intended to commit. Of course, Tetzl assented, chuckled within himself, and pocketed the money. A few days later Tetzl travelled from Magdeburg to Brunswick with his iron box, containing several thousand florins. In a forest near Helmstadt Mr. Von Schenck surprised and relieved him of his entire money. Tetzl remonstrated wildly, but it was of no use. "Here, behold your letter of absolution," said Von Schenck; "either I am right, or you are a swindler." He kept the money and went away.

Some people bought absolution for several hundred years. The calculation was very curious. The years in Purgatory were counted, and, according to the priest, one had to roast twenty years for this, thirty years for that sin, so that an accomplished sinner could easily make up a couple of hundred years or so in Purgatory.

To show how much wealth the Church had accumulated, it is a matter of history that when, during the French revolution, the convents were to be abolished and Church property confiscated, the clergy offered the National Convention, in order to avoid confiscation, eight million dollars cash. I believe the Church property in the Province of Quebec to-day is much larger than that of France during the Revolution. And this wealth was given for what? For things which were calculated more than anything else to demoralize the people and make them miserable and unhappy. And to whom was it given? To an Italian bishop who called himself Representative of Christ, with the same right with which I could do it, and who, in the glorious times of Popery, claimed to be "Lord of the Earth," of which He whom the Popes claimed to represent did not possess enough to lay His weary head upon.

B. M.