

MAY 17, 1884.

THE SIN OF BLASPHEMY.

HOW A CONFRATERNITY WAS FORMED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHECKING THIS CRIME AGAINST GOD.

In the Carmelite Church, Whitefriars street, Dublin, on a recent Sunday evening, Father Farrington commenting on the Gospel of the day, observed that among the means for securing a place among the "few" chosen, confraternities were specially efficacious. They had many already, but there was one which our country had special need of, though but one branch of it had, as yet, been established in Ireland. He referred to the Confraternity of the Most Holy Name—as affording an effectual means of making some reparation for the sin of blasphemy. The confraternity had its origin in a revelation made in 1847 to a Carmelite nun, who died in the odor of sanctity the following year. The great Name which the Jews would not dare to pronounce, was now so commonly blasphemed that the growing youth deemed himself a man when able to blaspheme it. Blasphemy was abroad in every form. In France, men dared to style the God of goodness an impious Being. In the Sacrament of Love He was constantly blasphemed. Not so long since, the Sacred Host was abstracted from the Tabernacle, and the sacrilegious spoiler thrust it into his pocket and went his way. Approaching an Irishman, he scoffingly exhibited the Sacramental Species, exclaiming, as he did so, "Look at your God." But, hardly had the impious taunt dropped from his lips when the wretch fell, his bowels literally bursting from his body. God is blasphemed constantly in the very emblem of Redemption. Not far away, a gang of five having made their way into a poor woman's dwelling, carried off her valued crucifix, and, burying it in the earth, jeeringly alleged their desire to see if it would rise on the third day. The pious woman, burning with indignation, ventured to predict that of those who participated in thus trampling on the image of the Crucified not one should die on his bed. The prediction was verified. One cut his throat; another was drowned; a third perished in a mine; and the rest died by manifest visitations of Divine vengeance. Even in the image of the Blessed Mother, God is blasphemed. Here, in our own city, persons can be found perverse enough to present innocent children with a statue of the Virgin, that they might spit upon the face and thus acquire a contemptuous disregard for the purest of God's creatures. To make reparation for the manifold forms of blasphemy is the object of the proposed association. Each member is to be provided with a picture of the Sacred Face. It was only by His Face that our Blessed Saviour was recognized by many on His way to Crucifixion, and it was against His Face that aspersions and dishonors were particularly directed. The handkerchief bearing the impression of His Sacred countenance is preserved at Rome, after more than 1,500 years, and more miracles have been wrought by it than even by the wood of the Cross itself. The pious memorial will form, no doubt, a specially suitable adjunct in restraining members from ever again casting blasphemies in the Face of a Crucified Redeemer.

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