

The King Shall Be First.

Text—1 Samuel X:24: "And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king."

If I know my own heart I am not a bigot. I am a Congregationalist because the Congregational church and ministry affords me the best and most convenient opportunity for self-expression. All churches seem alike good to me. I believe that God is in the midst of his people whether they meet in the Jewish synagogue, the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Anglican church or the chapel of the nonconformist.

I am not engaged in the business of fighting any church. I spend whatever spiritual ammunition I am able to produce fighting the organized evils which exist in the community. When I step aside to criticise any religious organization I do so in the hope of correcting what appears to me to be some unwise tendency which threatens to become an evil or a weakness. Criticism is the privilege of all. Criticism is not persecution. Criticism which is kind is a kindness. There is no institution (or individual) which may not profit by friendly comment and criticism.

There is a time to criticise. The speaker or writer who is incessantly hammering away at the things, in individual and institutional life, which are offensive or objectionable to him finally becomes a bore and suffers through an over emphasis. There is an appropriate time, occasion and opportunity for criticism..

I have never gone out of my way to criticise the Roman Catholic church. When occasion compells an utterance I speak my mind. I am not unique or eccentric in this respect. The leaders of the Roman Catholic church have no hesitation whatever in instructing their adherents concerning the dangers of Protestantism. Roman Catholic priests and prelates have a right to utter their criticism concerning the doctrines and methods of their "separated brethren"; and Protestants, as a rule, are disposed to receive and consider every criticism and comment which is uttered in a spirit of Christian love and charity.

There are always two view-points—one is from the inside, the other from the outside. A true Protestant will always be willing to know or to learn what is the sane estimate of an intelligent Roman Catholic concerning his church and religion. A wise Roman Catholic will not be indifferent to the