

The Life and Catholic Journalism  
OF THE LATE  
**JAMES A. McMASTER,**

*Editor of the New York Freeman's Journal and  
Catholic Register.*

Edited by **REV. MARK S. GROSS,**

*For the Carmelite Review.*

DEDICATION.

*To the Catholic Church in the United States, the young and vigorous Church whose faith James A. McMaster embraced with all the ardor of his soul, whose cause he led in journalism for a period of forty years, without fear of the world, supporting the soundest principles in the range of Catholic dogma and morals; upholding the burning questions of his day; advocating the Papal Infallibility, the liberty of the Pope and the Papal Temporal Power; the parochial school system and religious freedom in the land; supporting with unswerving pen every movement for the welfare of Country and Catholic society; and at the same time, in private life, displaying the virtues of a model Catholic husband and father—this life of James A. McMaster is affectionately dedicated.*

PREFACE.

**A**MERICA was the home of James A. McMaster. He had no other country. After his God and his religion his country was the dearest object of his life. He loved it as dearly as man could love it. There is not on the face of this earth a more honest or more ardent admirer of our country than he was. There is not a heart throbbing at this hour in the bosom of man that pulsates towards our glorious Republic with greater love and affection than did the heart of J. A. McMaster. It was this love that made his heart bleed when he called to mind that his country was overshadowed with the darkness of heresy, its society political and religious not under the benign influence of that ancient Catholic Church, alone the mother of a thorough christian civilization; that this nineteenth century failed, in our land especially, to see that divine Truth, as taught by the church, could alone be the safeguard of the liberties of America.

In his estimation, however, the nineteenth century was the best that the world ever saw—the most advanced in material progress and the natural sciences, an age that by its wonders of telegraphy, of steam power, of electricity and of the telephone,

had brought the most distant nations within the civilizing influences of commerce and society, annihilating, it would seem, time, space and distance; an age of the education of the masses of the people by the printing press, an age of unsurpassed invention that has unlocked many of the secrets of nature and deciphered the ancient writings on stone of the times and history of nations buried in the tomb thousands of years; an age blessed with the most benign influences of christianity, of the abolition of slavery, of political and religious liberty; an age when Catholic society was never so pure, nor the masses ever so generally instructed in their faith, nor the clergy ever more loyal, self-sacrificing and devoted.

Hence he was no pessimist, nor did he take his stand against the nineteenth century with the calamity-howlers or the prophets of woe.

Yet this same nineteenth century has its dark sides, much of evil to correct in the field of letters, in point of literature; much of evil to repair—in social life by the strengthening and protection of the bond of marriage; and by a more general diffusion of individual charity; much of evil to repair—in making education for our children more christian and society less scandalizing in its modes of fashion and amusement.

For all this improvement no power in the hands of religion is so efficient and far reaching as the press. And no service more beneficial to man, or more pleasing to God, can a gifted and courageous journalist render than his endeavor to make the press the hand-maid of religion for the spread of truth and the blessings of a christian civilization.

Such a journalist was Jas. A. McMaster.

Now, we cannot expect the people to set earnestly about stemming the torrent of the evils in the land, unless they are well enlightened as to the sources from which they flow. This McMaster has heroically done for forty years. He displayed heroism in his conversion, and in defending the Catholic faith; heroism in suffering and contending for Catholic schools and Christian education; heroism in defending religious liberty, and in upholding the constitution of the United States and the rights which every citizen should enjoy under that constitution; heroism in sacrificing what