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in cur working day world. Though the Reformation Party has had possession of this land ever since the first permanent English colony was planted at Jamestown, in 1607, one nevertheless discovers from the last census, that, in 1890, this party had not only failed to take religious poseession of the United States, but had left forty two out of sixty two millions of the people outside of any ecclesias-tical organization. The advocate of the Reformation has indulged in high play, and has lost. Feeling the emptiness of the situation, multitudes are turning away from the personal re-cognition of all religion; whilst others, with better thought, finding religion to be an inextinguishable craving of the soul, are anxiously asking: "To whom shall we go for the words of eternal life?" In this great crisis the Catholic Church appears, fresh, fair and strong, after the conflict of the ages, "her brow and breast made beautiful with scars," offering the wavering world Salvation through Christ, the one Mediator between God and Man. Many turn away with scoff-ing on the lip, but with a dread pre-sentiment in the heart, the dark foreboding that plagues the souls of those who sin against light; while, on the other hand, others are giving them selves to inquiry as never before, and are becoming convinced of the justice of the Catholic claim. To day the study of the Fathers, the Schoolmen and the Councils is being prosecuted anew, with the facilities that have been placed within reach by the labors of the last half century, rendering it comparatively to obtain the benefit of knowledge bearing upon the claims of the Cath olic Church. Therefore, the authority of the Church is becoming apparent to intelligent seekers after truth, whose minds are not hardened into confirmed hostility to Catholic thought. I do not, however, propose to offer any apology for entering the Catholic Church. Standing in the midst of modern re ligious systems toppling to their fall like columns in the Temple of Karnak, no defense need be offered for accept firm and uushaken Catholic Faith. I shall not enter upon argument, or seek to detail reasons for rendering allegiance to Rome, but will speak in a general way on one branch of the general subject, namely, The Position of the Holy Scriptures in the Teaching System of the Catholic Church.

In what I have to say, I trust 'that I may be understood as desiring to express my views with all due respect for opinions of non-Catholics, and that I may transgress no rules of charity in any allusion to the views of those with whom I was so long and pleasantly associated and whose happiness and welfare will always remain, as in the past, subjects of affectionate solicitude and regard. For some years I have stood with

men who sought to vindicate the Sacred Scriptures and rescue them from a defense which is generally regarded as a dishonor: and since, moreover, it has been charged that those who go over from the Protestant to the Catholic Fold gain no advantage in respect to the condition of Biblical Criticism, I shall try to meet the charge. Let me proceed, therefore, to suggest that, in my udgment, the Roman Catholic Church is entitled to the profound respect and confidence of all classes of non-Catho lics who honestly and reverently ad here, as of old, to Holy Scripture ; and for the reason that this Church holds, without compromise, to the Bible as the plenarily inspired Word of God. of Rome stands before English-speaking people, and Protest ants everywhere, as the unique and solitary defender of the Bible in its integrity and entirety. No other body maintains this uncompromising attitude. The attack upon the Bible is shown by Mr. Mallock, in his remarkable article in the November Nineteenth Century, as coming from Protestant critics, who seek to save the Scriptures by reducing them to the level of other so called Sacred Books of the East. The op-posite position of the Roman Church is shown by the Encyclical of Leo XIII Providentissimus Deus, 1893, which leaves no doubt. Quoting the Council of Trent, the Holy Father says that the Books of the Old and New Testament, "whole and entire," "contain revelation without error," the Holy Ghost having inspired men to write "in apt words and with infallible truth." The Encyclical, therefore, de-clares that "it follows that those who ciares that "it follows that those who maintain that an error is possible in any genuine passage of the sacred writings, either pervert the Catholic notion of inspiration or make God the Author of such error." Leo XIII. disposes of the "Higher Criticism" in the following manner: "There has arisen, to the great detriment of religion, an inept method, dignified by the ion, an inept method, dignified by the name of 'Higher Criticism,' which pretends to judge of the origin, integrity and authority of each Book from internal indications alone. It is clear, on the other hand, that in historical questions, such as the origin and the handing down of writings, the witness of history is of primary importance, and that historical investigation should be made with the utmost care, and that in this matter internal evidence is selin attacking and mangling the Sacred Books; and this vaunted 'Higher Criti-

prove of any advantage to doctrine it will only give rise to disagreement and dissension, those sure notes of error which the critics in question so plentifully exhibit in their own persons, and seeing that most of them are tainted with false philosophy and rationalism, it must lead to the elimination from the Sacred Writings of all prophecy and miracle, and of every thing else that is outside the natural order.

This, then, is the attitude of Rome toward the "Higher Criticism." Fur-ther, Leo XIII. says: "It is abso lutely wrong and forbidden, either to narrow inspiration to certain parts of Holy Scripture, or to admit that the Sacred Writer has erred. For," continues, "the system of those who in order to rid themselves of these difficede that Divine inspiration regards the things of faith and morals, and nothing beyond, because (as they wrongly think) in a question of truth or falsehood of a passage we should consider not so much what God has said as the reason and purpose which He had in mind in saying it—this sys-tem cannot be tolerated." Further it is observed: "All the books which the Church receives as Sacred and Canonical, are written wholly and entirely with all their parts, at the dictation of the Holy Ghost: and so far is it from being possible that any error can co exist with inspiration, that inspiration not only is essentially incom-patible with error, but excludes and rejects it as absolutely and necessarily as it is impossible that God Himself. the Supreme Truth, can utter that which is not true. "This," he concludes, "is the ancient and unchanging faith of the Church solemnly de fined in the Councils of Florence and of Trent, and finally confirmed and more expressly formulated by the Council of the Vatican."

The Catholic Church will stand by

Yet legitithese decisions forever. mate criticism is welcomed in Catholic schools, and the study of Holy Scripture is encouraged by the Encyclical, which presents the most powerful motive for entering upon the ginning with "the study of the Oriental langages and the art of criti-It is recognized that there is a cism." vast field for study, and that much is to be learned in respect to interpreta-tion. It is said that "not infrequent ly interpretations have been placed on certain passages of Scripture (not be onging to the rule of faith and morals which have been rectified by more careful investigations." This result has never been gained by the denial of inspiration, or the elimination of books or parts of books. The "Higher Criticism " now attacks entire books and efforts are made to explain away the words of our Blessed Lord in His references to Old Testament characters and events. We are told, by way of illus tration, that the Church sees various subjects in a new light, notably that of astronomy; that serious and now recognized mistakes have been made in in terpretation, and that we may essay new interpretations of particular say ings of Christ. The case of Gallileo is adduced. It is doubtless true that after Christianity actually prevailed, the Emperor Julian confessed, "Thou hast conquered, O Galileean;" and, in this connection, we are told that the Church "now confesses, "Thou hast conquered, O Gaillieo." The Church, however, as Mr. Mallock may see from the Encyclical of 1893, makes no confession of the kind, indeed no confession at all; but, on the contrary, re-

jects the position assigned. Says the Encyclical, "Nothing can Catholic faith, we must either prove it as well as we can to be entirely false, or at all events we must without the smallest hesitation believe it to be so." Oa this platform, the Catholic Church stands to day. Of course there is a human and a Divine side of the Church, and the human can err. In the case of Gallileo the mistake was not ex cathedra. The Church did not err. Sne has never changed her method of dealing with Science. If Gallileo conquered anything it was not the Church He did not hold the views falsely attributed to him, and his argu ment from tides and magnetism is now declared "all moonshine." A slight examination shows that his hypothesis was pure hypothesis, while an important part is rejected to-day. The weight of argument lay with Ptolemy. On the evidence submitted, the Congregation was right, and the case of Gallileo affords no ground for the en-couragement of "Higher Criticism." There are, nevertheless, those who tell us that our Blessed Lord took Old Testament narratives, for instance those of Jonah and the Flood, and used them as He used the parables and the story of the Prodigal Son. The critic, how-ever, fails, in his zeal, to recognize the fact that for eighteen centuries the Church has accepted the parables as parables, while, on the other hand, she has accepted the Old Testament illustrations as facts, and as standing in the rank of facts with the illustrations in this matter internal evidence is seldom of great value, except as confirmation. To look upon it in any other
light will be to open the door
to many evil consequences. It
will make the enemies of religion much more bold and confident
in attacking and mangling the Sacred
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the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the rank of facts with the lill stratum of the Testament these passages in the elder

specting His Divine Nature and the ncarnation, in the very highest sense involving Faith; for our Lord either knew or did not know that He was quoting what many call allegories. If He knew that these illustrations were fanciful and unhistorical. He neverthe less knew that the ages to follow would misunderstand Him and accept them as historical, which is seen to case. On the other hand, if He did not know them to be the unhistoric things which critics declare them to be. the student is justified in denying that perfection of Incarnation by which the Divine Logos was made flesh. This destroys the idea of His trustworthiness in general. In any event, whoever denies the historical character of the Old Testament in all its parts charges substantially that our Blessed Lord, at the outset, temerariously allowed the Church to misunderstand His allusions and thus permitted the Church to misworld in all these centuries, never having once, even in an indirect way, suggested the possibility of any other than the universally accepted interpretation; leaving for the hostile critic, in our late day, from his throne of judgment, to reveal and pronounce upon the error, and joyfully proclaim the gegregious blunder. Thereby the critic declares that he knows more of the mind and nature of Christ than the whole Church in all these eighteer hundred years, during which the truth was concealed.

In this connection a scholar should not allow his mind to become befogged. The issue is not simply one of science or simply interpretation. Hermeneu be involved, but, primarily it is the Mystery of the Incarnation that criticism puts on trial. The case It means a revision of is dogmatic. the Incarnation to accommodate a re vision of the Bible. This the Holy Catholic Church will never approve It is not in the slightest degree probable that she will allow her children to believe that our Blessed Lord was ignorant of the real character of the Sacred Writings, or that, with a full knowledge of those writings He stooped in the most solemn connections, to the trivialities and literary accommodations of the ordinary Eastern teacher, deliberately sending forth to all ages fiction as fact suffusing the centuries of the life and thought of the Catholic Church with allegory and legend, leaving an as-tonished world to wake from its long Oriental dream and realize that human thought, throughout the ages, has been simply the subject of illusion, the vic-tim of what at least, approximately, approaches too closely the nature of a world-encircling jest. All this in keeping with what L30 XIII. felicitously styles "the inept method nified by the name of 'Higher Criti but it cannot be seriously cism : entertained. It is incipien: Socinian

But while the Church thus carefully protects the Word of God, and holds osition from which in the ages to come here can be no retreat, it may never theless be supposed by some that the authorities are unfavorable to the circulation and use of the Bible. This is quite untrue. The memorable Encyclical from which I have quoted shows The memorable Ency in the most conclusive manner that it is the duty and privilege of Catholic scholars to study the Bible thoroughly in the original tongues; while the Papal Brief of Dec. 13, 1898, shows that it is equally the duty of the laity to read the Bible in vernacular languages, special favors being granted to the faithful who read the Scriptures not less than fifteen minutes each day If any one inclines to say that this is was chained to pillars in churches for the free use of all comers down to the present day, the Catholic Church, while restrictive on certain occasions, has always encouraged the proper use of the Sacred Word among all classes, though no invitation is given to the ignorant and the unlearned to expound it to their own destruction. As an example, take the letter of Pope Pius VI., addressed, in 1778, to the Archbishop of Florence, thanking him for sending out an edition of the Bible in the Italian tongue for the free use of the people. He tells the translator:
"You judge exceedingly well, that the faithful should be excited to the reading of the Holy Scriptures; for these are the most abundant sources which should be left open to every one, to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine, to era-dicate the errors which are so wide-ly disseminated in these corrupt This you have seasonably times. effected, as you declare, by publishing the Sacred Writings in the language of your country, suitable to every one's capacity." He adds: "You one's capacity." He adds: "You have not swerved either from the laws of the Congregations of the Index, or from the Constitution published on this subject by Benedict XIV." It may indeed be said that the Catholic Church requires the faithful to read the Scriptures in an authorized ver-sion, For English readers that of Douay is generally recommended. Protestantism, however, expects its adderents to use the version of King James, though it has never been shown that this version is the more correct. Indeed the revised version contains several thousands of amendments to that now in use, while a certain denomination will not be re-

favors its own creed. Likewise, it may be said that the cism will resolve itself into the reflection of the bias and the prejudice of the critics. It will not throw on the Scripture the light that is sought, or Saviour opens up considerations re-

conciled to any version save that which

the obligation is possible of perform-Thus in all lands wherever the Bible is read it may be understood by all substantially in the one and same sense. Among Catholics the Bible forms no Babel. It speaks with no forms no Babel. It speaks with no uncertain sound. It tells of one Faith, not of many.

Finally it may be suggested that the Catholic Church does not hold to "the Bible only," but supplements teaching with Catholic tradition. The Encyclical, Providentissimus Deus, quoting the Vatican decree, s that the Church "is herself Say great and perpetual motive of credibility and an unassailable testi mony to her own divine mission. is also declared that the Council of Frent, "following the examples of the orthodox fathers, receives and venerates with an equal affection of piety and reverence, all the books both of the Od and of the New Testament seeing that one God is the author of both-as also the said traditions, well as those appertaining to faith as to morals, as having been dictated, either by Christ's own word of mouth or by the Holy Ghost, and preserved in the Catholic Church by a continuous succession.

The value of tradition is generally ecognized and allowed in many most important relations. In connection with our American Constitution we hear about the "traditions of the fathers." Religionists in general, when no controversy is in hand, do not the state to employ tradition, even though the word may not be used. Christianity, like the American Government, has its traditions. The Church is their guardian. traditions are really unwritten Scrip ture. They include things referred to by St. John, where he says that the world could not contain books that might be written. Protestants them-selves, and Episcopalians in particular, form an example and are forced to us traditions, unconsciously using many that were too firmly fixed to be dis placed even by the Reformation. While the Catholic Church accepts and defends the Bible without compromise she does not treasure the Bible at the expense of her own authority, any ferior to the money in his vault.

There are two authoritative source of guidance, the written and spoker Word, and no one should fancy that the Living Voice is inferior. Catholic Church is a voice that spoke with unquestioned authority before the New Testament existed, even as the Jewish Church authoritatively preeded the Old Testament. Indeed, we should not forget that generations of divinely instructed and God-fearing men lived before the first words of Genesis were recorded. The Apostles were not commissioned by our Lord to go and write books, but to give oral eaching. The Scriptures do not say that Christianity was founded up the Bible, but rather that the Bible was based on a living and authoritative Christianity. It is the Church, not the Bible, that is declared to be "the pillar and ground of Truth." The Church was fully organized speaking with an infallible authority, before the first line of the New Testa ment was written. The Church has never lost her authoritative position, and in every age the traditions of the Church have been recognized and beyed. The Caurch does not fear to submit her dogma, discipline and of Scripture, since Scripture and practices general Tradition agree. The Bible was omposed by Churchmen, who wrote, guided by divine inspiration. The Says the Encyclical, "Nothing can be proved either by physical science or archaeology which can really contradict Scripture." The declaration of St. Augustine is approved, where he says of superior of the says of superior of superior of the says of superior of the says of superior of superior of superior of says of superior of says of superior of says of says of superior of says Church should declare the Bible not to be the Word of God, the world would refuse to honor it. The Church having authenticated the Bible, holds a true position toward the Bible. This is what renders it safe in the midst of a hostile world. The Church stands behind the Book, and cannot allow it to fail. The Bible might perish, but the Church would remain. We are indeed familiar with the declaration, "The Bible only is the religion of Protestants." This is the famous saying of Chillingworth, but it does not form a notable declaration when taken in accordance with its context. If its author could return to day and hear himself quoted, he would be profoundly surprised and would repudiate the shibboleth. He teaches a Protestantism quite different from the Protestantism of our day. He understood the value of tradition, and says: "It is upon the authority o universal tradition that we would have them believe Scripture," having subscribed to St. Augustine's declara-tion, "We would not believe the Gospel, unless the authority of the Catholic Church doth move us." Having gone thus far, Chillingworth declares the assertion, "Scriptures alone to judge all controversy 'n faith' is "a plain falsehood," affirming that "Universal Tradition is the rule to judge all controversies by." Again he says, "Neither doth being written make the Word of God the more fallible, nor being unwritten make it less infallible," while "the true Church shall always both maintain and teach all necessary truth;" and "we grant and must grant, for it is the essence of the Church to be so." Here we have an essential principle. The old Pro-

testant war cry is repudiated by its alleged author;\* while many critics are

discovering that the position of Hooker

is untenable, where he teaches that tra-

dition is a fundamental error of The fact is also pointed out Rome. finding their Scripture auth-gone, a class of Protest. ority gone, a class ants are inventing a doctrine of tra-dition akin to that of Rome. It is clear as charged, that the failure of Protestant religionists to maintain the integrity of the Bible is dissolving the entire intellectual basis of the Reformation. The cry now is, "The only when we agree with it. The cry now is, "The Bible old form pails on the ear. The Bible has fallen down from its high place, where it had been enthroned superior to the Church of Christ, which formed the Canon of Scripture and clothed it with authority. This is one inevitable result of venerating the Book at the expense of the Church, for which is greater, the Temple or the Builder On the principle of private judgment the Book alone could not stand. It must be ever so. An infallible book calls for an infallible interpreter. The human cannot comprehend the Divine. The Catholic Church alone can inter pret and protect the Book. Under her care it can never lose its authority in the eyes of her children. Protestant ism is an anachronism, a carnation of prejudice, and stands dazed before the

twentieth century with its gates ajar It is time for candid non-Catholics to address themselves to the subject of infallibility, and learn that the notion ing. that it interferes with individual lib erty is as true as that the mariner's compass renders the sailer an abject slave. Without instruments and guid ance the sailor would be as free as the ancient Sidonian in his ivoried galley with purple sails, without even an ast take the height of the polar star, dead reckoning and guessing his way, gazing with strained, uncertain eye over pathless sea and perilous shore. The freedom that the devout Catholics loses is the freedom to lose his way in storm and night and fog.

Mr. Mallock, an independent thinker and onlooker, evidently not caring much if anything for either side, declares, in the article already referred to, that the form of the Christian religion that serves the present intellectual crisis must be "the Christian religion embodied in the Church of Rome, and not in any form of Protestantism." In the judgment of the most disinterested observers, the Roman Church must in the future be the Church of the intellectual classes, even as it was for many centuries before the revolt of Henry VIII. against the Pope. Rome, as "th Champion of Revelation," will offer to the human intellect the "great Apologia." A class of mole-eyed men may fail to see what is taking place, but it s now nevertheless evident that "all those forces of science, which it was once thought would be fatal to her (Rome) are now in a way which constitutes one of the great surprises of history, so grouping themselves as to afford her a new foundation." On the other hand, with Protestants, it is coming to this, that every source of authority and pledge of permanence is disappearing, while the supernatural events of the Old Testament are less history than the siege of Troy. Glimpses of truth may be found, but where the real Bible begins and where it ends the critic himself cannot teil. His own end, nevertheless, is certain; and it remains, therefore, for the Catholic Church, speaking with authority, to reassure a doubting world, by declaring that all the books of the Old and New Testa ment, in all their parts, are inspired and together form the infallible Word of God. The Catholic Church is the natural and authorized guardian of Holy Scripture. She offers the solution of the Bible quesguardian of tion. Already there is a vague idea settlement not only of the Bible issue, but of all the questions that stand re lated to Christianity. Protestantism indeed talks of progress, but it does not comprehend the intellectual issues in this crisis and is not abreast the

age.
Still a few non Catholics are becom ing more candid in their estimate of the Catholic Church, both as a moral power and as a necessity of national life, recognizing that if it were taken away society would lose a needed cement and that the Republic itself would be insecure. There is less heat to-day in the discussion of Catholic claims than twenty-five years ago and we hear fewer of those unfounded charges from men's lips that they do not dare to subscribe with the hand. The Catholic Church is specially adapted to the wants of the American people, in that with needed safe-guards it is eminently favorable to real freedom of thought. Its claims are nobly supported by history and philosophy. A man argues the case

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against himself when he attempts to ignore the character and standing of Catholicity. The Catholic Church holds the key to the mental, moral and spiritual problems of the age.
When rightly understood by the
American people, the Church will be
found capable of meeting all its varied Whoever desires a requirements. Church must inevitably find it in the Catholic Church. It the Catholics are wrong in their belief, then there is no Catholic Church anywhere. Singularly, the same is true, if Protestants are right in their belief, since they deny that the Roman is the Catholic Church, and do not themselves pretend to be the Catholic Church. In denying the Catholicity of Rome they sign their own death warrant ; even as the man proves his own poverty when he proclaims the universe insolvent. On the Protestant theory these is no visible Church, the only body being a mystical body in the air. On this theory, Christianity has failed. The Empire that triumphed over the Roman Empire has perished. This is simply pessimism run mad. Reformation religionism, therefore, offers no moral or intellectual outlook for coming generations, and leaves the world forced at last to choose between Rationalism and the Catholic Church. I believe in the Holy Catholic Church and the Life Everlast-B. F. De Costa.

## MRS. HOWARD GOULD'S SISTER A MISSIONARY.

San Francisco, November 17 .-Clemmons, Howard Gould, has decided to devote her life to teaching the doctrines of the Catholic Church to the Chinese, and as soon as she can lease a house in Chinatown suited to her purpose she intends to open a Catholic Chinese mission.

This she will conduct independent of any order and she will maintain it herself.

Ella Clemmons became a convert to the Catholic faith less than two years ago. Shortly after her conversion she decided to give up her pleasant life and give her entire time to the promotion of the faith she had adopted. In looking around for some line of work she became interested in the Chinese, and saw in Chinatown a wide field for Christian endeavor.

There is no Catholic Chinese mission in this city, and the idea of founding one seemed to the young women the right thing for her to do, so she began the study of the Chinese language, and for seventeen months she has labored to perfect herself.

She has learned enough of the language to enable her to carry on the kindergarten method, and she hopes in another year to be able to speak

She has already established two classes of Chinese, and these she teaches during the day and in the evening.

"I shall call the mission 'Christ's rudio,'" she said, "and I hope I Studio, shall find a place so that I can open it before many weeks go by. I am going to call my line of teaching the kindergarten Bible study. " I shall furnish the mission nicely,

just as though it were my own home and any one who desires may join any of the various classes I shall carry on. My great hope is that the mission may open the way to my working among the Chinese women. My heart aches for these poor creatures, and I want them to enjoy the truth and the beauty of my religion."

Ella M. Clemmons is a young woman and very beautiful, like her sister, Mrs. Gould, and it will be a

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