

*John, 5th chapter, 39th verse. Search the Scriptures, for you think in them to have life everlasting; and the same are they that give testimony of me.—(Douay Bible.)*

DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,—

It is to be feared that controversial sermons or lectures do not always tend to promote the development of that charity which "thinketh not evil." This, however, depends, to a very great extent, on the spirit by which the speaker and his hearers are influenced. The sacred Scriptures furnish us with numerous examples in which our blessed Saviour and His Divinely inspired Apostles engaged in controversy with the Scribes, Pharisees and others, and in which the most severe and cutting rebukes were administered. Our Lord on one occasion said, when speaking to the classes named above, Matt. XXII c. and 33 v.: "You serpents, generation of vipers, how will you flee from the judgment of hell." And the Apostle Paul, when rebuking Elymas the sorcerer for attempting to turn the Roman Proconsul from the faith, said: Acts XIII c. and 10 v.: "O full of all guile, and of all deceit, child of the devil, enemy of all justice, thou ceasest not to pervert the right ways of the Lord." But will any one say that these utterances were not in harmony with the spirit of love?

As I do not profess to be infallible, I have no disposition to usurp the prerogatives of a judge by denouncing and unchristianizing all who may differ from me in opinion. But if, in presenting what I conceive to be the truth as it is in Jesus, the errors of Father Damen and our Roman Catholic friends should be exposed, I hope no one will accuse me of being destitute of the spirit of brotherly kindness and charity. Distasteful as controversy may be, there are times when to shrink from it would show a craven spirit, a spirit utterly at variance with that which should influence every man who has the least regard for the truth. In what we may say to night we do not wish to be charged with an intention to insult or traduce the character of any of our Roman Catholic fellow citizens, for we believe that notwithstanding the errors held and propagated by the Romish Church, she has within her pale many who love our Lord Jesus Christ. But possibly, in defending Protestantism and the Protestant Bible from the attacks made