

JUNE 29, 1912

human progress and enlightenment. That the immaculate Spouse of Jesus Christ should be reviled as the Mother of Abomination, even by those who, though they are ignorant of it, owe to her all the best blessings of this life and all their hopes for the next, is indeed a horrible thing to contemplate. But, as the Catholic Church is the Body of Christ, it must ever meet with the same treatment that He met with. Probably, as time goes on the irreligion at present growing spreads through all classes in every nation, the Catholic Church will be hated more and more by all who have chosen the world for their portion, but will become the home and the refuge of all those others who wish to be Christians and who see no choice except between Catholicism and infidelity.

I would fain hope that a candid perusal of these pages will help to remove some prejudices and misconceptions about the Catholic Church from the mind of the non-Catholic reader and induce him to examine afresh his claims to his obedience. I will confess that whilst yet outside the Fold, I was much troubled myself at one time with these "temporal prosperity" difficulties; and it was only when I came to view the matter more with the eyes of a Christian and less with those of a Scotsman that I was led to realize that hollowness of the whole objection. The subject is no doubt a large and complicated one, and only the more general and popular aspects of it can be treated within the compass of this little book. But I am convinced that the more profoundly the question is studied, and the more closely it is examined in the calm light of the Christian Revelation and the truth of the Catholic Faith and its regenerating influence over the life of nations and of individuals shine forth with irresistible beauty and attractiveness. If these pages should assist anyone to arrive at the same conviction, the writer will consider he has reaped a rich reward of his labour.

CHASING A FALSEHOOD

From time to time there appears in many of the papers of the country, especially in the Protestant religious press, statements concerning the Catholic Church and its practices which deserve to be characterized by very vigorous English. We will satisfy ourselves by calling these canards misstatements. What causes us surprise is this. The editors of the Protestant religious press as a rule, are men who profess to be, and in most cases are lovers of truth who would not knowingly print in their columns that which is a violation of it. Some, we fear, would not scruple to misrepresent "Romanism," adopting the principle that the end justifies the means. Others are blameworthy in that they do not, before writing harsh things about the Catholic Church, make enquiry as to the reliability of this or that rumor or positive assertion concerning Catholicity and detrimental to it which may appear in fugitive paragraphs in the public press. We are led to pen this article by an extraordinary statement which lately appeared in the Toronto Christian Guardian, and which, unless contradicted, would lead its readers to believe that the Catholic Church is continuously and offensively meddling in politics. Our contemporary said: "It would be interesting to us to see what part the Roman Catholic Church will play in the present day struggle for the presidency of the United States." It puzzled us not a little to arrive at a conclusion as to what prompted the editor of the Christian Guardian to pen these lines, which we must describe as mischievous. We take in the CATHOLIC RECORD office nearly all the Catholic publications of the United States, and not in any one of them have we seen a word from Cardinal, Bishop, priest or layman that would lead to the supposition that the Catholic Church as a church will take any part whatever in the election for the presidency of the Republic. Catholics will be found in the ranks of both the great parties. There is not the slightest evidence to prove that the Church will figure in the contest in the least degree. An article in the Catholic World Magazine for June explains, we think, the situation so far as the Christian Guardian is concerned. It is the custom of some graceless scamps, for the most part those who are enrolled in secret, oath-bound, anti-Catholic associations—in this case perhaps of General Miles' Guardians of Liberty—a sprout from the defunct P. P. A.—to get into some obscure publication ridiculous falsehoods about the old Faith. In a short time, as with the chain prayer, this nonsensical and villainous falsehood finds its way in one form or another into nearly every paper in the country, and the Catholic Church is as a consequence, in the minds of our non-Catholic fellow citizens, looked upon as an institution whose work in our midst is a positive injury, and whose ambition it is to deprive us of our civil and religious liberties. Upon reading this article from the Catholic World we trust the editor of the Christian Guardian will make suitable apology for the paragraph it has written in regard to the Catholic Church in the United States.

Some months ago a quotation said to be taken from the Catholic World appeared in several papers through the country. We had intended not to speak of it to our readers, for it was false on its very face. We had denied

its genuineness to inquirers, and had endeavored to run it down and kill it. But it found in certain quarters very fertile soil, and spread as rapidly as the proverbial rank weed. They who quoted it stated it was from the Catholic World; they never gave the volume and page. Asked to substantiate the statement, they invariably quoted some other paper, and to the other paper they shifted all responsibility. It would be impossible for us to give the entire story of how this vicious falsehood, so readily accepted and repeated by a number of Protestant journals, has grown. From the evidences already received, it will, we fear, be repeated in journals, in pulpits or on platforms, where neither reader nor hearer will be able to contradict it; and where the emphasis of statement will carry conviction to minds only too ready to believe anything against the Catholic Church.

The quotation attributed to the Catholic World is as follows: "The Roman Catholic is to wield his vote for the purpose of securing Catholic ascendancy in this country. All legislation must be governed by the will of God as manifested by the Pope. Education must be controlled by the Catholic authorities, and under education the opinions of the individual and utterances of the press are included. Many opinions are to be forbidden by the secular arm, under the authority of the Church, even to war and bloodshed." We give one example of how the falsehood grew, and of how some Christians make an apology and eagerly (?) seek to undo the wrong they have done.

The Christian Observer of Louisville, Ky., in its issue of April 17th, published the quotation given above, and prefaced it with the words: "We quote from the Catholic World." Shortly after its appearance the editor of the Catholic World asked the editor of the Christian Observer for the volume and page from which he quoted. The answer returned was "the paragraph was copied by us from the Herald and Presbyter of Cincinnati, Ohio." To this we replied, "the quotation is absolutely false; it is a gross calumny, and we ask you in simple justice to publish this statement of ours in as equally a conspicuous place as you published the falsehood."

The Christian Observer then in its issue of May 15th, under the unpleasant title of "The Spirit of Romanism," said:

"The accuracy of the quotation has been called in question, and the Editor of the Catholic World has written asking from what number of the Catholic World the quotation was taken."

The quotation was published in the Herald and Presbyter of November 15, 1911, and credited to the Catholic World. The Christian Observer had no reason to doubt the accuracy of the quotation, in view of the fact that it had always found this particular charge more than usually careful and painstaking in their quotations.

The Editor of the Catholic World now enters a specific denial, saying: "The quotation never appeared in the Catholic World." We are also in receipt of a letter from Mr. John J. Wynne, Editor of the Catholic Encyclopedia, who says: "I follow this publication (The Catholic World) very carefully, and I should surely have noticed such a statement had it appeared there." Moreover, I have seen the Editor of The Catholic World that the statement was never contained in its pages."

"The Herald and Presbyter, from which the quotation was made, does not recall the date of the paper from which it quoted. In view of the fact that both we and the Herald and Presbyter quoted the statement in good faith, and the Catholic World feels that an injustice has been done to it, we gladly give space to the publication of the statement of the Editor of The Catholic World that this particular quotation did not appear in that paper."

They who breathe this atmosphere of "The Spirit of Romanism" will, we fear, think that, although this particular quotation did not appear in the Catholic World, something very similar and equally as strong will be found in its pages if one were to search long enough. We regret to say that we do not think that the Christian Observer has in this matter met the demands of Christian justice.

We regret this the more because some readers of the Observer, who trust its quotations, have allowed themselves to be unduly agitated over the matter. We quote, as an illustration, a letter written to the Anderson (S. C.) Daily Mail. The letter repeated the quotation wrongly attributed to the Catholic World, and then continued:

"This paper is the recognized organ of the Roman church, and it is both a challenge and a threat. A challenge to all non-Romanists to be on guard, and a threat as to what that church will do if it ever gets the power. Our country was founded as a free and democratic republic, and it is the duty of every citizen to maintain its independence and its religious liberty, the absolute separation of church and state, and here is a paper claiming the right for a mere man, a piece of flesh and blood like the rest of us, who happens to be the head of a great church, with seat of his power in a city more than three thousand miles away from here, the right to dictate in matters of education, religion, and the right of free speech, even to war and bloodshed. Isn't that a monstrous claim to put forth in this twentieth century civilization? It may do in Italy, but it won't do in these United States. Now, we have some of the people in the Roman church here in South Carolina as are to be found everywhere, but they are not types of the Roman church. The boast of Rome is that she never changes, and her history shows her to be the enemy of civil and religious liberty. And this quotation from their church organ but sustains that claim, and Americans being thus forewarned should be forearmed."

D. H. RUSSELL.

Anderson, S. C., April 30.

The writer of this heated letter was immediately requested by Father A. K. Gwynn, of St. Joseph's Church, Anderson, S. C., to give the volume and page of the Catholic World from which the quotation was taken.

But Mr. Russell's source of information had been the Christian Observer. To it he hastened by mail for help. The answer he received was that they could

not help him, for they had copied from the Herald and Presbyter, and this last could not help because they had not the copy of The Catholic World from which it was clipped. Father Gwynn has offered \$100 to Mr. Russell if he will substantiate his statement. Mr. Russell is silent.

We might give other instances of the wrong done by the thoughtless avidity of certain Protestants to believe anything and everything in line with their unfounded prejudices against the Catholic Church. But we have given enough; and will not this exposure of the wrong, and the injustice which their misrepresentations work, lead them to cultivate a kinder and fairer spirit of Christian charity. "Charity is kind and thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth."

Such a spirit of true Christian charity was shown by the Editor of the Presbyterian organ, The Continent, who in this matter under discussion wrote as follows. We are happy to close the account of this incident with his letter:

Editor of the Catholic World:—Permit me to call your attention to the fact that in a Protestant missionary magazine of rather wide circulation I find the following printed as a quotation from the Catholic World: (Then follows the quotation already given.) I may add that as the editor of a Protestant paper, I am a pretty thorough-going Protestant myself, and do not think myself at all free from anti-Catholic prejudices; but I know something of the Catholic World and its spirit, and I cannot really believe that this quotation, which I certainly never saw in your pages, is accurate. I am sure at the same time you are a fair and honest man, and if you are not, I am sure you will not publish a statement which has been editorially expressed in the Catholic World, you will be good enough to verify it for me, and cite me to the issue from which it is quoted. I will appreciate the courtesy if I may hear from you authoritatively whether this is an utterance of yours, or of any contributor for whom you would wish to be responsible.

Thanking you for the courtesy, I am, Yours very sincerely,

NOLAN R. BEST.

This falsehood which we think furnished inspiration to the editor of the Christian Guardian to write uncharitably and unjustifiably of Catholic action in the United States, calls to mind the bogus encyclical to the clergy of Chile, which the Rev. Robt. E. Speer, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, promulgated as coming from the Vatican. This so-called encyclical cast odium upon the clergy in the country named, accusing them of sensuality and unbecoming conduct in many other matters. Rev. Charles Alfred Martin, a priest of Cleveland diocese, was engaged for the space of two years hunting down this canard which had been making the rounds of the Protestant press for the past fourteen years. Rev. Mr. Speer now acknowledges the document to have been a forgery. The name of the forger, however, is still concealed.

PREACHER-RIDDEN ONTARIO

It would be meet were some of our ministerial fellow-citizens to give Quebec and what they term its "priest-ridden" people a period of rest. Almost every day's newspaper brings us examples of offensive and uncalculated meddling in secular affairs by the Puritan section of Protestant clericals. Last week we referred to the action taken by the Methodist conference in regard to the growing of tobacco in Essex and Kent. On the 18th a despatch from Leamington told us that the press of those two counties with one or two exceptions were loud in their denunciation of the action of the conference in regard to the tobacco industry. They charge them with inconsistency in that they do not also put the ban on corn, wheat, rye and other products all of which are used in the manufacture of intoxicants.

Not satisfied with falling foul of the products of the soil our friends have now made war upon the military. The 22nd Oxford rifles were ordered to start for camp in Goderich on Sunday morning, 16th of June. The chaplain of the regiment, Rev. R. P. Cochran, pastor of Knox Church, Woodstock, wrote a letter of protest to the militia department claiming that the running of an excursion on Sunday is an offense against the Christian sense of a large section of the community. Col. Hodgins was also communicated with and the despatch tells us that it is possible that the Sunday train may be called off. Thus the 22nd regiment has been routed and the ministerial forces are victorious.

But this is not all. The London Board of Health wants the streets of the city watered twice on Sunday. The matter was referred to the Fire and Light Committee of the City Council. Mayor Graham informed the latter body that arrangements had been practically completed, but the Board of Health, we are told, are now waiting to see what action the Lord's Day Alliance will take on the question.

Furthermore, the city of London, with a population of nearly 50,000, will not be permitted to run street cars on Sunday. It is the only city in Canada without such a convenience. The Ministerial Association buckle on their armour and are ready to take the field whenever a movement in this direction is initiated. Sir James Whitney and his confederates would long since have given us the cars were it not that they

are terrorized by the Ministerial Association.

That the people of Ontario are preacher-ridden we have substantial evidence every day. We have no knowledge of "priest-ridden" conditions in the province of Quebec save the ill-founded statements of the bigoted pulpsters of the province of Ontario.

AS TO FOOD PRICES

An uneasy feeling presently prevails amongst the conductors and motemen of Toronto Street Railway. A demand for higher wages has been made and at the present writing it is not known what the answer of the company will be. In this matter our sympathies are wholly with the men. Under present conditions their wages, even with the most rigid economy, will not meet the disbursements. True, the company may be paying all they can afford to pay, but we have a suspicion that the annual dividend is a generous one. The most far-seeing political economist will scarcely venture an opinion as to what we are coming to if the freebooters of the business world are permitted to continue their depredations. One of the prime causes of all this turbulence in the labor market is to be laid at the door of those conspirators who combine for the purpose of buying up and storing the people's provisions and fixing the market prices at their own sweet will. These concerns return the stockholders profits ranging anywhere from 25 to 100 per cent. A despatch from Ottawa to the Toronto Globe of June 12th is illuminating. Mr. J. Rudolph, Dairy Commissioner of the Dominion, issued a statement which explains the situation. He says that "June is the month when the cold storage men bought up butter to hoard against the high prices and scarcity of the winter months." This is no doubt intended to be a joke. Just fancy the men who put goods in cold storage being exercised about the high prices and scarcity of the winter months. The despatch then says that the Canadian housewife is paying 3 to 5 cents more for butter in the banner butter month of the year so that the cold storage man may reap a harvest when the commodity is scarce in the winter. It must be remembered that it is not in the case of butter alone these expedients are resorted to. Almost everything that goes into the housewife's market basket is affected in like manner. Is there any wonder we have discontent amongst the laboring class. What are we going to do about it? Have the "Big Interests" applied an anesthetic to some of the members of parliament. Hon. gentlemen of the House of Commons, wake up! Hon. gentlemen of the Senate, why do you not initiate some legislation that will clip the wings of the money-mad mergers, trusts and other conspiracies designed to promote abnormal profits on their investments? Something should be done. There will have to be a change sooner or later even if we have to go to the length of wiping out the cold storage. Before its advent we had an open market. Is it one of those things responsible for the present conditions?

Yours very sincerely,

NOLAN R. BEST.

This falsehood which we think furnished

inspiration to the editor of the Christian

Guardian to write uncharitably and unjustifiably of Catholic

action in the United States, calls to

mind the bogus encyclical to the clergy

of Chile, which the Rev. Robt. E. Speer,

Secretary of the Board of Foreign Mis-

sions of the Presbyterian Church, promul-

gated as coming from the Vatican.

This so-called encyclical cast odium

upon the clergy in the country named,

accusing them of sensuality and unbecom-

ing conduct in many other matters.

Rev. Charles Alfred Martin, a priest of

Cleveland diocese, was engaged for the

space of two years hunting down this

canard which had been making the

rounds of the Protestant press for the

past fourteen years. Rev. Mr. Speer

now acknowledges the document to have

been a forgery. The name of the for-

ger, however, is still concealed.

BIGOTRY

A very narrow-minded person, under the caption "A Liberal for Twenty Years," writes a letter to the Toronto Globe which is both unjust and misleading. This gentleman is one of those hopeless bigots who refuses to look at the two sides of a question. He complains bitterly about the diminution of the Protestant population of the Province of Quebec and claims that this is brought about by the French and their clergy in an underhand and persistent way. He gives Mr. Sellar of Huntingdon as his authority for his statement, but, unfortunately for his argument, Mr. Sellar's name will carry no weight, because he too is known as a gentleman in possession of very strong prejudices. Protestant gentlemen who live in the Province of Quebec tell us that there is no such thing as religious persecution there and that Protestants throughout the province, more especially in districts where their number is very small, are treated with justice and kind neighborly consideration. But the question will be asked: "Why do so many Protestants leave the Province of Quebec?" We might answer it by asking another question: "Why do so many Protestants leave the Province of Ontario?" From these and all other provinces of the Dominion go out from time to time both Protestants and Catholics to the United States and the Canadian North-West who are seeking to better their material position. The attempt to bring religion into the matter is prompted by bigotry. In regard to persecution, if any class of people have reason to complain it is the Catholics of Ontario, where in many places intolerance reigns supreme, and Catholics, because they are Catholics, are oftentimes knifed at the polling booths. In the civil life of Ontario this is a fact so well established that it is unnecessary to give particular cases. The city of Toronto gives us a concrete example.

TWO UNDESIRABLES

"Subscriber" sends us an Ottawa publication the contents of which remind us of Maria Monk literature, or rather the literature written for Maria Monk by her "manager." Surely our subscriber does not expect us to take notice of statements made in such a periodical. The name of the publisher and his associate, Rev. Mr. Chadband, a Baptist preacher, would not look well in our columns, when we consider, on the one hand, the opium escapades of the former and the frantic and foolish efforts of the latter to keep his little meeting house in good financial condition by reviling the faith of his Catholic neighbors. We are always most willing to enter upon a controversial tilt with gentlemanly ministers of the sects—men who mean well but whose education plays them false in so far as the Catholic Church is concerned—but we must hold ourselves excused when asked to enter the arena with a Baptist preacher who writes as though he had not even a nodding acquaintance with Truth, and whose presence in the community leads but to turbulence; and a degenerate weed who was cast over the Pope's garden wall for making too free with the poppy heads. He was picked up by this hard-shell Baptist stargazing whose abuse of Pope and Popery gives him food and raiment. Would it not be a good business stroke were the Rev. Mr. Chadband and the poppy-head eater to proceed to Toronto, and, with the Rev. Messrs. Johnstone, Hicks, Stauffer and others, form a "No Popery" merger. Toronto would be a better place than Ottawa for selling the stock. We attack wonder if it is a microbe that attacks some of these unfortunate preachers; a microbe as dangerous to spiritual well-being as the cancer germ to the material body. At any rate they are doing work which is most pleasing to the enemy of souls.

THE MARRIAGE CASE

At long last the Supreme Court of Canada has given judgment on the Lancaster Marriage Bill, a measure introduced at the last session of the Dominion Parliament by that gentleman who is known as the "Member for Fads," the provisions of which would place in the hands of making a marriage law the power of making a marriage law for the whole Dominion. The Supreme Court has decided that "the Parliament of Canada has no authority to enact, in whole or in part the Lancaster marriage bill. The Province of Quebec laws do not render null and void marriages contracted between two Roman Catholics by other than a Roman Catholic priest, nor does it between two persons either one of whom is a Roman Catholic, under the circumstances." Parliament cannot by legislation make all marriages heretofore or hereafter solemnized legal and binding without concurrent legislation by the province or provinces concerned. The next stage in the matter will be a reference of the case to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for final decision. As to the validity or non-validity of the marriage law of Quebec, so far as the State is concerned, the Chief Justice asked to be excused from giving an opinion. Justices Iddington, Duff and Davies decided that the law of the Province of Quebec does not render null and void the marriage of Catholics by Protestant ministers; Mr. Justice Anglin contrary. In all

ANOTHER LOVER OF PRINTER'S INK

Rev. A. P. Brace, Methodist, pastor of Woodgreen Church, Toronto, a new aspirant for notoriety in the public press, preached a sermon to the Orangemen last Sunday week. It was appropriate to the occasion. Rev. Mr. Brace, recognizing the necessity of marching in line with the proprietries, did not preach to his auditors on the Gospel of Love but gave them a carefully thought out essay on the Gospel of Hatred. Giving a real Gospel sermon to Orangemen would be as insipid as a glass of pink lemonade to a toper. To Rev. Mr. Brace belongs the distinction of living so the silly argument we have yet seen in regard to the Catholic Church in Canada. When the Papal Delegate arrived in Montreal to attend the Eucharistic Congress he was presented with an address in which occurred the sentence: "We welcome you from Rome on the Tiber to Rome on the St. Lawrence." This utterance Rev. Mr. Brace declares to be treasonable and added that Catholics would like nothing better than bring the papal throne to Montreal. Were the Archbishop of Canterbury, General Booth, a higher critic denying the inspiration of the Scriptures, another higher critic denying the Virgin birth, still another higher critic scoffing at the Resurrection to be received with similar sentiments by their co-sectarians in this country Rev. Mr. Brace and his Orange friends would see nothing wrong in it. It is no surprise to us that the man on the street nowadays pays so little attention to the utterances of a certain class of preachers. Appraised as misfits they have little or no influence amongst their people.

A SANE VIEW

Discussion on Sabbath observance took an unexpected turn at the meeting of the Anglican Synod in Toronto. When the report of the committee on the observance of the Lord's Day was presented by Canon Bryan, Mr. L. A. Baldwin said he considered the day was well observed when he attended public religious services in the morning. He thought the rest of the day should be free for enjoyment. Were Mr. Baldwin to give expression to this opinion in the presence of an old-fashioned Presbyterian elder it would be interesting to watch the expression on the countenance of the latter. Rev. C. Cayley thought this country was going in the wake of Puritanism tending to restrictions that alienated men and women from the church. Both Mr. Baldwin and the Rev. Mr. Cayley are in line with the Catholic view of the observance of the Sabbath. The two extremes—the entire disregard of the divine command on the one hand, and on the other, turning the Sunday into a day of tribulation, groaning in spirit and absolute in action even in things necessary—should be guarded against. Our friends of the sects would save themselves a great deal of trouble in arriving at a course of action in accord with the fitness of things if they made study of Catholic theology.

PRAYER AND PARTY PASSION

The Republican Convention recently held in Chicago, gave us an example of irreverence which tends to bring Christianity into disrepute. "The fighting," we are told, "began immediately after the prayer." The minds of the delegates were charged with all manner of recrimination, and party passion was at its keener tension. The delegates representing Taft and Roosevelt respectively were waiting like caged lions to spring at one another's throats. Thoughts of God, of justice, of fair play, of consideration one for the other, of the maxims of Christianity, of gentlemanly behavior, were dropped outside the auditorium—"prayer was offered up and the fighting began." The situation gives room for a world of thought as to the density of the hypocrisy of certain people bearing the Christian name. The scenes at Chicago remind us of a saying of our old friend, Artemus Ward, at the time of the Civil War: "It would have been twenty dollars in Columbus' pocket if he had never discovered America. He should have left it to intelligent savages to rule."

SUFFRAGETISM has become the creed of at least one Irish woman, and she is a Kelly. But Miss Agnes A. Kelly lives in England and was one of those convicted for breaking windows. Had she remained in Ireland she probably would not now be suffering the inconvenience of prison life. There is one paper in Ireland called the Irish Citizen, which advocates the principle of suffragetism. In a recent issue it drew attention to the fact that there is a wide difference in the treatment of first class misdeameants, the women being made to suffer hardships which the men are not called upon to endure. This of course is not right. They should be both

probably it will be a considerable time before we have the decision of the Privy Council.

THE POWER OF THE KEYS

With a great deal of pleasure we give space to Rev. Father Cline's paper: "The Catholic Church the Sole Possessor of the Keys and the power of Binding and Loosing."

The subject may be considered hackneyed, but we can assure our readers that Father Cline's treatment of it is not only logical and closely reasoned, but original, interesting and very readable.

SHARKS AND CROOKS

A rather peculiar heading for an editorial in this paper is this: "It was suggested by same transactions that were brought to our attention the past few days."

In the business life of almost every city there are a number of men who thrive by sharp unfair tactics in dealings with their fellowmen. Like ill-omened birds of prey they watch for their chance to strike a deadly blow on some unsuspecting victim. Honest God-fearing men are sometimes brought within their deadly fangs. They know them to be sharks and crooks in all that the words imply. In order to shake off the slimy hold, they are willing to comply with the most unjust and unreasonable demands.

There is no comparison between the loan-shark who plies his trade with the poor and lowly and the gangs of conspirators who thrive, through crooked methods, on the honesty and zeal of many that come within their power. They fatten on their victims and continue to ply their nefarious methods until their oppressions become intolerable, till their oppressions become intolerable.

Associated with this vile brood are sometimes to be found Catholic men—men who help to drag the net of these hold-up and black-hand conspirators, those of our own creed. Shame on such Catholics. They are a curse to the Church and a disgrace to its teachings. If the chance presents itself expose them. Fortunately and happy the man or woman who can go through life without coming in contact with conspirators who glory in wrecking honorable careers and whose only ambitions are to get money by unfair and dishonorable methods.—Catholic Columbian.

FORTY YEARS A PRIEST

The CATHOLIC RECORD sends congratulations to Rev. James E. Bobier, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., on the attainment of his fortieth year in the priesthood. He was a native of St. Thomas, Ont., and on this account our Canadian readers will be pleased to know that warm congratulations from Bishop and priests were extended to him on this occasion. Seldom has there been seen such heartfelt demonstrations of regard for a priest of Holy Church. This gives us evidence that his administration must have been a most fruitful one; that he has been a father to his people, and we pray God's blessing will continue to abide with him during the remainder of his years in the holy priesthood. Father Bobier has been pastor of St. Charles Borromeo church since 1898 and has four assistants. He was born near St. Thomas, Ont., on Dec. 15, 1841. His father, Patrick Bobier, was born in Ennisborough, County Wexford, Ireland. His mother was a native of County Kildare. He has one brother, Gregory, now living retired in Chatham, Ont. Father Bobier spent two years at Sandwich College; from there he went to St. John's College, Fordham, N. Y., where he graduated with the class of 1870. His theological studies were pursued at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., and on June 30, 1872, he was ordained to the priesthood, in the city of Baltimore, by Cardinal Gibbons, then Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina.

This is my friend

Let me tell you how I made His acquaintance. I had heard much of Him, but took no heed. He sent daily gifts and presents, but I never thought to want my friendship, but I remained cold.

I was homeless, and wretched, and starving and in peril every hour; and He offered me shelter and comfort and food and safety; but I was ungrateful still.

At last He crossed my path and with tears in His eyes He besought me saying, Come and abide with Me. He never reminds me of my past ingratitude.

Let me tell you further what I think of Him. He is as good as He is great. His love is as ardent as it is true. He is as lavish of His promises as He is faithful in keeping them. He is as jealous of my love as He is desirous of it.

I am in all things His debtor, but He bids me call Him Friend.

—From the "Friendship of Christ," by Robert Hugh Benson.

That which is oftentimes esteemed as friendship, is destructive of its very existence. A shadow cannot represent a substantial and permanent reality.—Rev. W. F. Hayes.

treated in the same manner. We have no sympathy with the amazons of the suffragette school, but we are free to say that we know many women who are from all points of view better entitled to a vote than many men. There are many women who would go to the polls and cast their votes guided by the very highest motives. There are many men who go to the polls and cast their votes under the guidance of the ward boss, who slips a bill of small denomination into their pockets.

THE POWER OF THE KEYS

With a great deal of pleasure we give space to Rev. Father Cline's paper: "The Catholic Church the Sole Possessor of the Keys and the power of Binding and Loosing."

The subject may be considered hackneyed, but we can assure our readers that Father Cline's treatment of it is not only logical and closely reasoned, but original, interesting and very readable.

SHARKS AND CROOKS

A rather peculiar heading for an editorial in this paper is this: "It was suggested by same transactions that were brought to our attention the past few days."

In the business life of almost every city there are a number of men who thrive by sharp unfair tactics in dealings with their fellowmen. Like ill-omened birds of prey they watch for their chance to strike a deadly blow on some unsuspecting victim. Honest God-fearing men are sometimes brought within their deadly fangs. They know them to be sharks and crooks in all that the words imply. In order to shake off the slimy hold, they are willing to comply with the most unjust and unreasonable demands.

There is no comparison between the loan-shark who plies his trade with the poor and lowly and the gangs of conspirators who thrive, through crooked methods, on the honesty and zeal of many that come within their power. They fatten on their victims and continue to ply their nefarious methods until their oppressions become intolerable, till their oppressions become intolerable.

Associated with this vile brood are sometimes to be found Catholic men—men who help to drag the net of these hold-up and black-hand conspirators, those of our own creed. Shame on such Catholics. They are a curse to the Church and a disgrace to its teachings. If the chance presents itself expose them. Fortunately and happy the man or woman who can go through life without coming in contact with conspirators who glory in wrecking honorable careers and whose only ambitions are to get money by unfair and dishonorable methods.—Catholic Columbian.

FORTY YEARS A PRIEST

The CATHOLIC RECORD sends congratulations to Rev. James E. Bobier, Pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., on the attainment of his fortieth year in the priesthood. He was a native of St. Thomas, Ont., and on this account our Canadian readers will be pleased to know that warm congratulations from Bishop and priests were extended to him on this occasion. Seldom has there been seen such heartfelt demonstrations of regard for a priest of Holy Church. This gives us evidence that his administration must have been a most fruitful one; that he has been a father to his people, and we pray God's blessing will continue to abide with him during the remainder of his years in the holy priesthood. Father Bobier has been pastor of St. Charles Borromeo church since 1898 and has four assistants. He was born near St. Thomas, Ont., on Dec. 15, 1841. His father, Patrick Bobier, was born in Ennisborough, County Wexford, Ireland. His mother was a native of County Kildare. He has one brother, Gregory, now living retired in Chatham, Ont. Father Bobier spent two years at Sandwich College; from there he went to St. John's College, Fordham, N. Y., where he graduated with the class of 1870. His theological studies were pursued at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., and on June 30, 1872, he was ordained to the priesthood, in the city of Baltimore, by Cardinal Gibbons, then Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina.

This is my friend

Let me tell you how I made His acquaintance. I had heard much of Him, but took no heed. He sent daily gifts and presents, but I never thought to want my friendship, but I remained cold.

I was homeless, and wretched, and starving and in peril every hour; and He offered me shelter and comfort and food and safety; but I was ungrateful still.

At last He crossed my path and with tears in His eyes He besought me saying, Come and abide with Me. He never reminds me of my past ingratitude.

Let me tell you further what I think of Him. He is as good as He is great. His love is as ardent as it is true. He is as lavish of His promises as He is faithful in keeping them. He is as jealous of my love as He is desirous of it.

I am in all things His debtor, but He bids me call Him Friend.

—From the "Friendship of Christ," by Robert Hugh Benson.

That which is oftentimes esteemed as friendship, is destructive of its very existence. A shadow cannot represent a substantial