

## DIVORCE MILLS A SCOURGE, SAYS CARDINAL GIBBONS

### A WARNING FOR AMERICA IN THE FATE OF PAGAN ROME

A scathing rebuke of the "divorce mills" in the United States, was delivered by Cardinal Gibbons in his monthly sermon at the cathedral, Baltimore.

His Eminence chose as his topic "The Imperishable Influence of Jesus Christ," and for his text Psalm 96—"Thou, O Lord, art most high over all the earth: Thou art exalted exceedingly above all gods." He said the most striking feature of Christ's empire is its perpetual endurance. He contrasted with Christ the rulers of the world who have passed away leaving nothing but monuments, memories, of military exploits and conquests of laws framed for their respective countries.

Coming to the evils of divorce, the Cardinal said:

"If Christianity is the highest type of civilization—and who can deny it?—then it is not true that we are retrograding instead of advancing on certain lines? We glory in our system of universal education, in our enormous wealth and in our territorial expansion. But these advantages are not evidences of Christian progress.

"Two thousand years ago pagan Rome had all these temporal advantages. The wealth of the nations poured into her lap. Her empire extended over three continents. She far excelled us in the arts, in oratory, poetry, philosophy and literature and in all the refinements of cultivated society. Her paintings and sculpture her literary productions, are still our models. And yet while she was in the zenith of her material and intellectual splendor she was in a state of moral and political decay. In fact, she was lapsing into barbarism.

"SCOURGE WORSE THAN MORMONISM"

"There is a social scourge more blighting and more destructive of family life than Mormonism. It is the fearfully increasing number of divorce mills throughout the United States. These mills, like the mills of the gods, are slowly but surely grinding to powder the domestic altars of the nation. Husband and wife are separated on the most flimsy pretexts. And, as if the different States at the Union were not sufficiently accommodating in this respect, one State has the unenviable distinction of granting a bill of divorce for the mere asking of it on the sole condition of a brief sojourn within her borders.

"I can conceive no scene more pathetic nor one that appeals more touchingly to our sympathies than the contemplation of a child emerging into the years of discretion seeing her father and mother estranged from each other. Her little heart is yearning to love. She longs to embrace both parents, but finds that she cannot give her affection to the one without exciting the displeasure or resentment of the other.

"A lady prominent in social life once said to me in Newport: 'I do not recognize any law, human or divine, that can deprive a husband or wife of the right to separate and to enter fresh existences when they do not live in harmony together.'"

"You speak," I replied, of your rights, your privileges. But you have not a word to say of your duties and obligations."

"Ah! my brethren, if men and women had due consideration for their duties and responsibilities their rights would take care of themselves. There can be no rights where there are no corresponding obligations. There are no rights against the law of God.

THOU WHO ART THE FATHER OF LIGHT

"O Thou, who art the Father of Light and the Dispenser of every good and perfect gift, cast a ray of Thy divine light on our beloved country, that the spiritual and moral growth of the nation may keep pace with its material prosperity. Teach us to realize the fact that saving knowledge consists in knowing and worshipping Thee, 'the only true God and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent.'"

"Teach us that he alone is free who enjoys the glorious liberty of the children of God, and that freedom which delivers us from the bondage of sin; that he alone is great who is victorious. Above all, may we learn from Thee that true national honor and glory and genuine imperialism are found in the empire of the soul over its passions, and that greater is he who conquereth himself than he who taketh cities."—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT

Attempting to prove that teaching the Protestant Bible in the public schools is not an injustice to Catholics, and sweeping away the objection of a correspondent who believes that this Bible study would be unfair to Catholics, a Protestant contemporary says:

"You forget that the Catholics are Christians, and that they have the same Bible that Protestants have and believe it as devoutly." Though not exactly correct as to the identity of the Catholic with the Protestant version of the Bible, this admission of our Protestant friend that we Catholics are Christians and that we have the Bible "which we devoutly believe" is worthy of note. I all this be true, if Catholics fundamentally believe, what Protestant sects pretend otherwise? Why do they presume to send missionaries to Catholics to convert them to Christianity? Why do they make such a strong point of the number of Bibles they succeed in distributing among Catholics if we have Bibles already and believe it devoutly? Why do they make believe that the Bible is withheld from us, and that it is an object of hatred to our priests?

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There is some inconsistency here which we wish some of our good Protestant editors would look into and clear up. It seems that we Catholics are, ordinarily, poor benighted idolaters and heathens to whom it is necessary to send Protestant missionaries; but when it becomes necessary to induce us to allow Protestant ideas of religion to be taught, under the guise of Bible reading, in the public schools, we are fellow-Christians who have the Bible and "devoutly believe it!"—Sacred Heart Review.

DIED

MCDONNELL.—In Smith Township, County of Peterboro, on the 25th Feb., 1911, Mr. Benjamin McDonnell. May his soul rest in peace!

MARRIAGE

BARRITT O'ROURKE.—At Warkworth on Wednesday, February 22nd, by Rev. Father O'Connell, Mr. Joseph Barritt of Centerville, to Miss Anna O'Rourke.

ENGLISH DAVIDSON.—On Feb. 26, 1911, at St. Michael's Church, Belleville, by the Rev. Father Spratt, J. P., Mr. Joseph English, G. T. R. Conductor to Miss Katie Davidson, eldest daughter of Mr. Robert Davidson, also of that city.

FAVOR RECEIVED.—A subscriber wishes to acknowledge a response favor received after prayer to St. Anthony and promise to acknowledge same if granted.

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