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### THE CONVERSION OF A METHODIST LOCAL PREACHER

Written for the CATHOLIC RECORD

The following is a brief outline of my experiences in searching for the which finally led to my conversion to the Holy Catholic Church While on a visit to the Old Country nearly four years ago I was having with some friends amongst whom was a Catholic lady. After convers ing on various topics, the talk drifted towards religion, a subject which is very interesting to me, and she said to me. "do you know, George that Catholics are not forbidden to to do so." I answered in the negative impression that the Catholic Church against Catholics reading their Bibles, and did nothing in the way to encourage the distributing of them."

Then she explained to me the differ ence between a Catholic and a Pro testant Bible, and the reason Catholics are not allowed to read the Protestant authorized version. I had often read of the experiences of some of the colporteurs of the Bible Society and the difficulties they have in sell-ing and distributing their Bibles and Gospels in Catholic countries, but no where had I read the reason given Catholics are forbidden to take and read them, nor the distinction between the two various versions. After this I made up my mind to study the Catholic religion, from their own point of view, not with the intention of embracing it at all, even though it were right, but because I

really wanted to find out what my attitude as a Christian should be towards the Catholic Church and Catholics. Previous to this I was bitterly prejudiced against the Catholic Church as I had been attending Bible readings, the subject being 'The Church of Rome as anti-Christ. and in this light I had always looked upon her. I also attended some of the meetings of J. A. Kensit, the great Protestant speaker, and I strongly condemned the Romanizing Anglican church in our town when a new vicar came to

take the place.

In fact the chief reason why I joined the Methodist Church was the advice of a Low Church of Eng. land gentleman and a Presbyterian they were under the impression that most of the Anglican churches

were tending Romewards.
I returned to Hamiota, Man., in March, 1910, and the Methodist minister said that he had got a job wait ing for me down at Miniota urging to it og it was si wicked place and he thought I might

be able to do some good.

So I decided to come down, and after a few months I began to study for the Methodist ministry and was made an exhorter and given a license to preach. I continued my studies for a year, but, owing to lack of time and severe headaches, I

thought it best to quit for a while.

Here my thoughts turned towards the Catholic Church, but still I did not know how to proceed, as I was not acquainted with any Catholics, and the nearest church was 30 miles away; neither did I know of any Catholio publisher, until I saw some Catholic prayer books advertised in Eaton's catalogue. I obtained one, and found out it was published by Kilner & Co., New York, so I wrote to them for advice and a catalogue of books. This they sent me and I procured "Catholic Religion," "Cath-olic Belief" and "Catholic Ceremonies." These I read and studied, and they set me thinking. I then looked over the list of the publication of periodicals and papers at the end, and amongst them I noticed the CATHOLIC RECORD, this being the only Canadian Catholic paper given; so I wrote to Senator Coffey and told him that I was searching for the truth, and he kindly forwarded on to me some back numbers of the RECORD, and promised to send it on till Sep-

Since then quite alot of correspondence passed between the late Senator Coffey and myself, and I must say that he helped me immensely, and when I asked him questions from time to time he always answered them with-

The assistant editor of the Orange Sentinel, reading one of my letters in the RECORD, wrote to me bringing a whole lot of charges against the

atholic Church. I replied to the etter, and asked for definite proof of hese charges, but none was forthcoming; after keeping the letter about 4 or 5 weeks I sent it to Mr. Coffey and gave him permission to publish it.

About this time I requested that my name should be taken off the roll of the Methodist Church, but was asked to think well over the step I was taking. The Methodist minister came to see me. He lived only about 150 yards away, within calling dis tance. He asked several questions of my employers and went off, promis-ing to come and see me again. Afterwards, as I was at this time particularly anxious to hear both sides of the matter, I went to the Metho dist Church quite a few times so as to try to get an appointment with the minister, but failed to do so. However, he came and saw my em ployers again, with the result that they gave him information concern-ing the amount of Catholic corresdence I was receiving, which

kindly mentioned in one of his sernons preached the Sunday before the 5th of November dealing with the Gunpowder Plot.

I then resolved to go and see him and to take my correspondence with me. This I did and while having an interview, the Methodist minister of Miniota came in, and was present most of the time. This occurred at

Hamiota. Here I was advised to take a more rational view of the Bible in my studies and to look at it in the light of the present age. The Rev. Mr. East plainly told me that he accepted what he liked concerning the Bible and the rest he rejected A few days after the interview I received the offer of \$550 a year to go and take two appointments, Kello and Oakburn, if I was sound in the faith, but I naturally refused it.

About this time I returned to Min iota, and the minister of Rossburg began a controversy which laster some time, but my faith could not be shaken. He spoke at times very bitterly against the Catholic Church and referred to her doctrines as damnable doctrines" On one casion he told me to go to my Bible and read the Acts of the Apostles concerning the primacy of Peter. This I did as I am a great lover of the Bible, and in the first fifteen chapters I found no less than fourteen occasions where Peter took the most prominent part, in speaking, preaching, confirming the converts, working miracles and at th first council; I sent my reply with the result that the Rev. F. Chapman ad mitted that Peter was the chief of

the apostles. On another occasion I spoke of rocuring Fisher's History of the Church, as I was advised to get this by Rev. Mr. East of Hamiota, and the Rev. Mr. Chapman also highly com-mended it. However I said that when I get one I will get two, one on the Catholic side and the other by Protestants to compare them. The Rev. Mr. Chapman said this would not do, as Church History is so unreliable, and requested the controversy to close. So I closed it, but I still have all the correspondence on hand.

In my studies I have been trying my best to find out what were the doctrines which Our Lord Jesus Christ and His holy Apostles taught, and have tried hard but in vain to find them taught in Protestantism, except where she agrees with those taught by the Catholic Church. I "Faith of Catholics," giving the doctrines and ceremonies of the early church for the first five centuries, and I can only come to the conclusion that the Catholic Church, is unchangeable. Another book which has helped me immensely along this line is Bede's Ecclesiastical History, being the bistory along the bistory and the bistory along the bistory along the bistory and the bistory along the bist cal History, being the history of England till about the year 750 A. D.

I have again and again compared Catholicism with Protestantism with the result that Protestantism is a failure, and cannot stand the comparison. We cannot get away from the fact that Protestantism is getting farther and farther away from God and the Bible, and is being merged into atheism and rationalism. Re garding the accusations made against the Holy Catholic Church I have gone to her enemies for them to prove them, but proof they cannot furnish. In fact I was receiving the Sentinel for about three months, and what did I find? What a fuss they made if they happened to have caught a single priest here and there, who under difficult circum-stances at times made a mistake. This was nothing new to me. In fact a priest wrote and told me that the Church was human as well as Divine, and that it was on the human side that she failed. He readily told me that there were bad and wicked priests, but still there was a Judas among the Apostles and the tares and the wheat must grow up to gether. There have always been scandals in the Church and there

always will be. After the close of the controversy I set about preparing myself with the aid of the Holy Ghost for my reception into the Church, with the result that the first opportunity I had I went to St. Lazare and saw Father Lalonde, who thoroughly examined me on Sunday, June 14. I was retime he always answered them without beating about the bush. In
speaking of the Orangemen, while
condemning their methods he always
spoke kindly and sympathetically of
them and asked me to pray for
them.

The orangement while
condending their methods he always
absolution and Holy Communion.
Now I have full confidence in the
Church that she will lead me aright
in my spiritual affairs. Before I close

terest in all her affairs. I need your prayers as I am as yet but a young child in the faith, and I make an earnest appeal to those who should happen to read this letter, but are not of the Catholic faith, to study her claims, from both points of view; to look out into the wide world and see if they can reconcile the various sects and denominations of Protestantism, as the Church founded by Jesus Christ, and upon the Holy Apostles who were inspired in their teachings who were inspired in their teachings by the Holy Ghost. I myself am not afraid to advise any who are sincere and in search of the truth to take up their Bibles, free themselves of all prejudiced thoughts and conceptions and pray for guidance by the Holy Spirit of God. They will finally acknowledge that the Catholic Church

is all that she claims to be. This is the story of my conversion: although I have barely outlined the course of my investigation, I am cation. To go fully into it would re quire an article for each prejudice uprooted and for each truth at first limly perceived and later fully un-

May God bless you abundantly in your work.

Yours sincerely in Christ, GEO. HAMMOND. P. O. Box 41, Miniota, Man.

P. S.-I will send you later an account of my experiences in a Cath-olic settlement and my impression of the ceremonies and of the priest.

The foregoing is especially interesting as the late Senator Coffey took a deep and sympathetic interest in Mr. Hammond. Frequently on receipt of a letter from him he made some such remark as this: "I have another letter from my Methodist friend out west; he seems to be quite sincere and is making progress "

We feel quite sure that his promised first impressions of Catholics will be read with lively interest; and it may be also with profit that Catholics will see themselves as the recent convert sees them. ED. C. R.]

### AN UNWELCOME VISITOR

The Rev. William H. Watts, the courageous rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Haledon, N. J., a sub-urb of Paterson, has shown his resentment of the unsolicited and unwelcome receipt of The Menace at his rectory, by writing a vigorous letter to the publishers, telling them quite plainly what he thinks of their sheet and demanding that they refrain from sending any further copies. He also wrote a warm letter of congratulation to the Postmaster General at Ottawa, Canada, com-mending his department for excluding The Menace from the mails, and expressing the hope that our own government would take similar action. The Menace, of course, ignored his request; he then wrote the Postmaster General at Washington, denouncing in vigorous terms the vile sheet, and concluding: "I seriously object to having this paper come into my home, and I asked to be relieved in some way from having

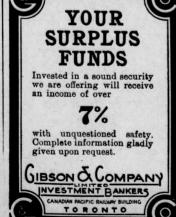
it forced upon me through the agency of the United States mail." second request to The Menace failed to accomplish its purpose, so in despair the Rev. Mr. Watts ordered the carrier to return the weekly copies to the post office. Mr. Watts communication to The Menace be

day a sample copy of your publica-tion, and I shall be greatly obliged if you will not send me any more ; this

sample is quite sufficient. I have written to the Postmaster General of Canada, to congratulate him upon the exclusion of your paper from the Canadian mails. expressing the hearty wish that our own government would do likewise. "My opinion is, as stated in my

letter to the Canadian Postmaster-General, that this paper is well-named, for it is indeed a menace to the people wherever it goes. It cannot help but engender strife, foster sectarian prejudice and hatred, and do far more harm than the Roman Catholic Church could do even if it were worse than it is pictured by the

"I am mildly curious to know what may be the religious views and onnections of those who are responsible for this emanation from Missouri. Whatever those views and connections may be, they could



never be called Christian, for in every way opposed to the true spirit and teaching of the Christian religion, and on the contrary re-present the spirit of those who, amidst jeers and taunts and sneers, and with devilish hatred in their hearts, nailed the meek and gentle Saviour to the cross.

"I don't wonder that some driven to use violent methods in op-I don't wonder that some are posing you; your paper creates just that spirit. This shows that it is anti-Christian, and Protestantism and patriotism are in a bad way if they need such a champion as this. -The Lamp.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

THE BISHOP VISITS THIRTY . TWO PARISHES IN SIX COUNTIES DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, besides visiting the city schools and churches, has just returned from a visitation of the northern part of his diocese. The annual confirmation tour is a very great trial of endurance, occasioned by the many long drives over rough country. On numerous occasions His Lordship drove from forty to fifty miles. Despite this strenuous

work he is in fairly good health. During the past month of June the bishop visited thirty two parishes, administering the sacrament of confirmation to 1,714 candidates, all of whom took the total abstinence pledge till the age of twenty one, with the promise to renew the same when they arrive at that age for another period of twenty one years—that is till the age of forty two. The bishop is greatly pleased with the state of his diocese, and since his last visitation, he found several new churches schools, convents and parish houses erected, monuments to the zeal of pastors and parishioners.

DEATH OF SISTER CAIA

The Berlin News Record, July 16 Yesterday afternoon the tolling of the bells at St. Mary's church nounced the death of Sister Caia, the Mother Superior of Notre Dame Convent, Berlin. She had been ill for some time suffering from cancer of the liver, but she bore her suffering with patience and Christian fortitude until the end came yester-

day. Sister Caia was born in Louisville, Kentucky, Dec. 3, 1852, and was about sixty-two years of age. She took her rows as a school sister of the Notre Dame Convent in August 1874, and soon after she was sent to take charge of a class in the Separate School in Berlin. With the exception of about five years spent at Waterloo and ormosa, her life was devoted to her work here, where she was well known. She became Mother Superior of the Notre Dame Convent at Berlin in December, 1901.

The funeral was held on Saturday norning from St. Mary's Church and thence to St. Mary's cemetery for in-

# THE MENACE

From the Monthly Brief of St. Peter's Church, (Epis A few days ago a vilely printed sheet " called The Menace, was de-

livered here. The Menace is opposed to the Cath-

olic Church. We received no less than five copies of the paper, and in case the publish ers have been equally generous to others, we would like to express our

opinion. venomous production could not be

Though we may differ many of us from some of the teaching of the Catholic Church, we know that she s of the true Church, and we know that she is a great living power for good, having a people who are intensely loyal, and who receive from her the sacraments of our Lord.

That then this scurrilious, wretched-ly written and miserably conceived paper, whose bigoted spirit is only equalled by its obvious greed, should be able to issue false and vile accusa tions broadcast against this Church is a matter of reproach and of shame.
Any of our readers who receive

specimencopies of The Menace should believe that it lives up to its title, that this paper is a menace to all truth, charity and love, and above all a menace to that unity for which we long, when there shall be again one undivided Church.

# DIED

O'MALLEY—At Marchurst, Carleton Co., John O'Malley, in his sixty-third year. May his soul rest in peace!

DURKIN—In this city, on Saturday, July 11, 1914, Mr. Martin J. Durkin aged ninety seven years. May his oul rest in peace!

McCabe—At her late residence, 295 Locke St. South, Hamilton, Ont., on Thursday, July 2, 1914, Mrs. Elizabeth Sinnot McCabe, dearly beloved wife of John McCabe. May her soul rest in peace!

NEW BOOKS

"Pictures from Canadian History." For boys and girls. By Katharine Livingston MacPherson. Published by Renout Publishing Co., Montreal. Price socts.

"Constitutions of the Friends of Jesus and Mary. A rule of life for devout Catholics. By Rev. Peter Geiermann, C. S.S. R. Published by Benziger Biothers, New York. Price, leather, 35c; cloth, 15c.

"The Narrow Way." A brief exposition of the spiritual life for the laity and practical guide book to

ristian perfection for all of good will. By Rever Gelermann, C. S.S. R. Published by Benzige others, New York. Price 60 cts. "Ballads of Childhood." By Michael Earls, S. ublished by Benziger Brothers New York. Pri

"History of the Protestant Religions." Their founders, histories and developments. By kee, James Luke Meagher, D.D. Published by the Christian Press Association, New York. Price §1.25 net. "Parish Life Under Queen Elizabeth." By W. P. M. Kennedy, M. A. Piotessor of Modern History in the university of St. Francis Xavier's college. Antigonish, N. S. Published by B. Herder, St. Louis Price 30 cts.

"Lisbeth" The story of a first Communion. By Mary T Waggaman. Published by P. J, Kennedy & Sons, New York. Price 75 cts.

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School Section No. 15, Augusta. Must be
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Evans, Sec.-Treas., S. S. No. 15, North Augusta.
1866 1

QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED FOR Separate school section No. 1, Brighton town-ship. Duties to commence Sept. 1st, 1914. Salary \$500. Apply to A. McGuire, Codrington P. O., 01t.

TEACHER WANTED FOR SCHOOL SEC-tion No. 1, Nichol. Second class normal. State salary and quantications to Michael Duggan, Ariss P. O., Ont.

A QUALIFIED TEACHER FOR S. S. NO. I. B ougham. Duties to begin Sept. 1st, 191 Catholic preferred. Apply stating salary an qualifications to Dan Duggan, Secretary, Dace R. M. D. No. 1.

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE School No. 1, Morely. Second or third class School No. 1, Morely. Second or third class pressional certificate required Duties to commence after holidays. (Sept. 1st) Salary \$45 a spear. Church and P. O. convenient to school. Apply stating qualification and experience to John J. Hunt, Secretary. Stratton, Ont. 1866-2

TEACHERS WANTED FOR EIGHT ROOMED

QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 3, Puslinch township. Wellington, Co Salary \$5,50. Duties to commence Sept. is Apply to Frank C. Mollison, Sec-Treas., R. K. No. 6 Guelph, Ont.

WANTED FOR C. S. S. No. 1, STANLEY, Normal Trained teacher. Duties to commence September 1st. Salary \$400. Small attendance. Apply to E. J. Gelinas, Sec. Treas, R. R. No. 2 Zuri-

A NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER WANTED for S. S. No. 4, La Passe. Duties to begin on Sept. and. Apply stating salary and experience to Hector Gervais, Sec. Treas, La Passe, Ont.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHER WANTED FOR S. S. No. 4. Galway. salary \$500 per annum. Address J. J. Guiry, Box 170. Kinmount, Ont. 1866-tf

WANTED, FOR TOWN OF WEBBWOOD school, lady teacher (Catholic) to teach primary room. Salary \$550 per annum. Duties to commence Sept. ist. Apply with testimonials and state qualifications to S. J. Hawkins, Sec. Treas.

TEACHERS WANTED HOLDING FIRST OR second class certificates, for Catholic schools or William, Ont. Salary \$600 per year. Duties o commence September. Apply G. P. Smith, Secre ary, 114 Simpson St., Fort William, Ont. 1863-tf TEACHER WANTED FOR JOCKVALE Public school holding a permanent second class certificate, convenient to R. R. station, church, and boarding-house also on Rural Mail Delivery Route. State experience and qualification. Salary \$600 ex

A NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER WANTED 1865-2

1865-2

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE S S. No. 11, Hoy township Salary \$400 to \$450 to \$ No. 11, Hoy township Salary \$400 to \$450 per annum according to qualification. Duties to begin Sept. the 1st, 1914. Apply to N. A. Cantin, Sec. Treas., St. Joseph, Huron County, Ont. 1865-2

TEACHE \* WANTED FOR SEPARATE school Section No. 1, Merritt, qualified to teach English and French ("rimer classes, also teacher for second room. Qualified to teach French and English for Separate school section No. 2, Merritt. Apply stating experience and salary required to Rev Father Brennan, P. P., Espanola. Ont.

WANTED Fig. R. P. S. S. No. 4, ADMASTON, Ont., a second class teacher, normal trained. Duties to commence on the 1st of Sept. 1914. Apply Duties to commence in Ontario, also salary wanted, to

WANTED FOR THE CATHOLIC SEPARATE ist, and class preferred. Salary \$425 per annum Apply to R. J. Snaith, R. R. No. 1, Ottawa.

AN EXPERIENCED LADY TEACHER wanted for C. S. S. S. No. 4 Biddulph Duties

WANTED CATHOLIC TEACHERS, FIRST and second class professional certificate for eparate school, No. 4, section Hagarty, Wilno. Duties to commence Sept. 1st. Apply stating exercising and salary required after giving references of Albert Lechowicz, Sec. Treas. for Separate school, Wilno P. O. Ont.

CATHOLIC TEACHER WANTED FOR Separate school, Section No. 2 Nipissing. Salary §4. per months Duties to begin September 1st, 1914. Apply to Louis Straus, Sec Treas. Alsace, Ont. 1865-3

WANTED EXPERIENCED TEACHER FOR senior room S. S. No. 5 and 8 Maidstone and Sandwich South, holding professional 2nd class certificate. Duties to commence Sept. I. Salary \$525 to \$575 according to qualifications and experience. School close to church, village, steam and electric R. R. Address John J. Costigan Maidstone.

TEACHER WANTED FOR C. S. SCHOOL No. 3, Admaston. Holding first or second class professional certificate. Salary \$550 or upwards according to experience and qualifications. Duties to commence Sept. i. 1914. School convenient to church and railway station. Apply stating salary and experience to Edw. Windle, R. M. D. No. 2, Renfrew, Ont.

Renfrew, Ont. 1864-3

TEACHER WANTED, CAIHOLIC, QUALIfied, Separate school No. 1, Dock, T. P. Address qualification and salary, to W. Ryan, box 22, Charlton, Ont.

ton, Ont. 1864-3

TEACHER WANTED FOR SCHOOL SECtion No. 1, Arthur Township, A Catholic
teacher, female with a second class certificate qualified. Apply to Patrick Costello, Kenilworth, P. O.
Box 71, Sec., Treas. 1864-3

BOX 71, Sec. 1 reas.

AN1 ED, TEACHER FOR SEPARATE school section No. 8 Peel. Holding a second class normal trained professional cercificate. State salary and experience. Apply to John Connelly, Alma, Ont. 1864-3

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Melbourne,

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TEACHER WANTED FOR KENILWORTH Separate school. Duties to commence Sep 102 1914. State experience, qualifications and salary expected to Rev. D. F. Kehoe, P. P., Sec. Treas, Kenilworth, Ont.



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