

DANGERS OF THE HOUR.

IT IS THE LITERATURE WHICH
SCOFFS AT RELIGION.The Evils of Dangerous Reading Can
Be Much Diminished by the Estab-
lishment of Parochial Libraries and
Reading Rooms.We extract the following from the
pastoral letter of Cardinal Logue, Arch-
bishop of Armagh:

I should fail in my duty to those with whose spiritual welfare I am charged did I not warn them against the danger which appears to me present and real. Though, through God's blessing, there is still much good to be found among men, still we may say with St. Paul that the "Days are evil." If we look abroad through the world, we will find God forgotten, His interests ignored, His sovereign control in His own creation seldom taken into account. The great truths of religion, death, judgment, heaven, hell, eternity, have, to a great extent, ceased to influence the actions of men. Faith, when it has not wholly vanished, has become weak, dim, dreamy, inoperative. The care and anxiety with which Christians of old labored for the welfare of their souls are now devoted to this life, its interests, its pleasures, its ambitions, as if with this life all has begun and with it everything is to end. This fell spirit of worldliness, indifference, luxury, corruption and exclusive devotion to the interests of this life is spreading, insensibly it may be, but not the less surely, and daily claiming new victims. Thank God it has not reached you, my brethren, but still it is a danger to be guarded against. When once caught, even in the outer circles of the whirlpool, it is very hard to escape being drawn into the abyss. Of all the causes which tend to propagate and intensify this evil, none appears to be more active than indiscriminate and dangerous reading. There seems to be much self-deception in this matter. Many, relying on their strong faith, their tried virtue, their superior intelligence, their ripe judgment, believe they can read with impunity anything and everything that comes in their way. When there is question of literature of an openly immoral or doubtful tendency, they very soon find that tried virtue is very little protection. But literature of this class is not the chief danger, as there are very few indeed, still calling themselves Christians, who would voluntarily and unnecessarily indulge in it. The real danger is in publications which, while preserving an appearance of decency, conceal a secret poison which is insensibly instilled into the mind; in publications which, if they do not openly assail the truths of faith, treat them with ridicule or openly ignore them as myths which are not to be reckoned with; in publications which attempt to bring religion and its ministers into contempt, to destroy the salutary confidence and mutual sympathy which should exist between the faithful and those who are divinely appointed to instruct, direct and guide them. Such publications cannot fail to undermine virtue, weaken faith, breed contempt for sacred things, shake the hold which religion has on the minds of the people, turn them into scoffers, and as a consequence, into apostates—for the apostate is ever next door to the scoffer. Let no one say, whatever be his knowledge, his intelligence, his judgment, that he can habitually give himself to the perusal of such productions without experiencing the pernicious effects which they are calculated to produce. The mind, however insensibly and unconsciously, is sure, sooner or later, to take its complexion from that upon which it feeds. Hence, my brethren, the necessity of guarding ourselves and those under our charge against this danger. Extreme watchfulness is necessary, especially on the part of those who are burdened with the care of others; but watchfulness is not the only remedy. Every effort should be made to supply those who read with good, sound, healthy, useful literature. There are books, periodicals and journals in abundance not less attractive, not less interesting, and certainly not less useful either for training the mind or storing it with knowledge than the publications of a pernicious or doubtful character to which I have referred. Were greater efforts made, by means of parochial libraries, reading

rooms, lending libraries and the like to supply the people, especially the young, with such books and periodicals, the evils to be feared from dangerous reading would be very much diminished, if not altogether removed. And we must remember that amusement, curiosity and secular knowledge should not be the sole end and aim of our reading. We should also read for edification. We have the lives of the saints, we have treatises on numerous spiritual subjects; and, if any person imagines that these books are dry, unattractive, and uninteresting, it is because he has not tried them. Above all, we have the Sacred Scriptures, lately so powerfully recommended to the study of the faithful by the Holy Father in his magnificent Encyclical. It is a standing calumny against us, bishops and priests, that we endeavor to keep the Word of God out of the hands of the people, whereas more has been done by the Church and her pastors to preserve, explain, vindicate the authority and secure respect for the Sacred Scriptures than by all the sects together. We, no doubt, condemn the perversion of the Sacred Writings, their mutilation, their corruption by unfaithful translation, the perversion of their meaning, by misleading comments; but as to keeping approved versions out of the hands of the people, it is foreign to our teaching and our practice. On the contrary, I believe, and in this I am confident I merely re-echo Catholic feeling, that if the Word of God were more frequently and carefully read, if the example of Christ, His Apostles and Saints and the inspired maxims which they teach were kept more constantly before the minds of the people, there would be more fervor, more piety, more charity, less worldliness, less insensibility to supernatural truths, less indifference than is unfortunately so often to be met with in the world at the present day.

ALWAYS A SUPPLY ON HAND.

At 9 o'clock the other evening a bare-headed, plainly-dressed woman, about 45 years of age, walked into a Grand River avenue drug store and asked: "Has a man been in here within an hour and asked for poison?" "No, ma'am," was the reply. "Rather small man, with a red goatee and freckled face?" "I don't remember any such man." "Got a squeaky voice, and he'd tell you that he was tired of life and longed for rest?" "No; no such man has been in here, ma'am." "Well, he may come. It's my husband. Every week or two he tries to bluff me, and when he finds he can't do it he threatens to poison himself. He went away this morning, saying I would never see him again, and that I would read of his death in the evening papers." "Yes'm." "You'll know him the minute he walks in. He'll ask you for arsenic—10 cents worth of arsenic." "Yes'm." "He'll begin to blow about me while your putting it up, saying as how I make life miserable and full of woe, and that he has decided to die." "Yes'm." "Then he'll begin to shed tears and claw off and say perhaps he'd better make one more effort to live with me, and the result will be that he'll walk out and leave you ten cents out of pocket." "I see; I'll be on the watch for him." "Yes, you'd better. He's played that trick on every druggist within a mile of here. I keep laudanum, rough-on-rats and strychnine in the house all the time, besides three or four ropes stout enough for him to hang himself, and there's no earthly need of his beating a drug store. He just does it to get sympathy and have a chance to say that I bought four 10 cent novels in one week." "I see." "If he comes, just grab him, turn him outdoors, and I'll be very much obliged to you, and it may help to make a better man of him. Good evening."—*Detroit Free Press.*

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Testimony of Dr. D. Marsolais,
Lavaltrie.

I have used several bottles of Robson's Hair Restorer, and I cannot do otherwise than highly praise the merits of this excellent preparation. Owing to its use, the hair preserves its original color and in addition acquires an incomparable pliancy and lustre. What pleases me most in this Restorer is a smooth, oleaginous substance, eminently calculated to impart nourishment to the hair, preserve its vigor, and stimulate its growth, a substance which replaces the water used by the manufacturers of the greater part of the Restorers of the day from an economical point of view. This is a proof that the manufacturer of Robson's Restorer is above all anxious to produce an article of real value, regardless of the expense necessary to attain this end. It is with pleasure that I recommend Robson's Restorer in preference to all other preparations of that nature.

D. MARSO LAIS, M. D.

Lavaltrie, December 26th, 1885.

Testimony of Dr. G. Desrosiers,
St. Félix de Valois.

I know several persons who have for some years used Robson's Hair Restorer and are very well satisfied with this preparation, which preserves the original color of the hair, as it was in youth, makes it surpassingly soft and glossy, and stimulates at the same time its growth. Knowing the principle ingredients of Robson's Restorer, I understand perfectly why this preparation is so superior to other similar preparations. In fact the substance to which I allude is known to exercise in a high degree an emollient and softening influence on the hair. It is also highly nutritive for the hair, adapted to promote its growth, and to greatly prolong its vitality. I therefore confidently recommend the use of Robson's Hair Restorer to those persons whose hair is prematurely gray and who wish to remove this sign of approaching old age.

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