

and the playwright have devoted all their talent to the composition of their works, while the preacher has aimed merely at the production of a flat essay, in which Catholic truth, where introduced at all, shall be so discreetly veiled that none but the initiate can discern it. If indeed we could hear discourses as ably handled as an ordinary lecture, fearlessly defending the Christian verity against the attacks of heretics and Associationists, we would gladly listen and learn. As it is, we claim that a distinct pause should be made after the benediction which concludes Mattins and Evensong, to enable those who desire it to come in or go out, before the sermon commences. We know that we are expressing a feeling latent in the minds of laymen from Halifax to New Westminster.

Our object in going to church should be the worshipping of God rather than the hearing of sermons; and the latter should be at all times subsidiary to the former. The priest's work is necessary to the sustenance of the body of Christ; the work of the preacher is merely a useful adjunct. Many a clergyman has every qualification for the priesthood, who cannot preach a good sermon; and many a layman is naturally qualified for the latter employment, whom circumstances hinder from taking holy orders. The Church's mission so far exceeds her present capacity of performing it, that we can afford to lose no manner of effective help. In the rural districts of Canada especially, there is need of teachers who shall instruct the common people in the rudiments of Catholic theology, and counteract the evil influence of Cecilites and Anabaptists. The clergy are, numerically at least, unequal to this task.

It should cover our spiritual rulers with shame, to think that in several Canadian cities there is not a single congregation of sectaries which has not been largely recruited from our ranks. When we say that the assistance of laymen has been at most frigidly tolerated, and that the clergy have often forsaken the poor in order to court the rich, we believe that we have indicated the weakest points of our machinery.

We appeal to those of our Bishops and Priests who have any regard for the Faith once delivered, to extend our borders by a greater care for the poor of God, and by the systematic employment of lay agency in Church work.

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