

PREFACE.

THIS pamphlet is translated from the original French by a citizen of Montreal who prides in being a Convert from Protestantism. It was issued and revised by Chiniquy himself over forty years ago. Our object in reproducing it is two-fold ; firstly, because it is a clever piece of work, and although not very deep, yet it is none the less remarkable for the clearness with which the Catholic principles are set forth and defended by the shameless pervert ; secondly, because that unfortunate old man is still alive, and has not as yet ever attempted, either in French or English, in lecture or brochure, in one way or the other, to refute his own crushing arguments in favor of the Church which he has since abandoned and for the past thirty years persistently maligned. We regret that the interesting debate was cut so short by the Methodist minister clearing out, otherwise we might have been favored with some more irrefutable evidence of the apostate's present insincerity. How powerful a man can be when backed by truth, and how miserable he appears when advocating error. Some of our friends thought that the reproduction of this little work, unearthed from the debris of the far away past, might serve to give the once eloquent Catholic clergyman, but now wandering heretical talker, too much publicity. But all the publicity that might be given him cannot either benefit his unholy cause or lighten the heavy burden that he must carry down the few remaining days or years of his earthly career and on through the endless cycles of the *yet to be*. Still the reproduction of these arguments, in which he triumphed in the days of his vigor and faith, might flash back upon his clouded mind and with electric effect light up the expanse around him, letting him behold once more—if for a last time—the abyss at his feet and the terrible end that closes in his night-dark path of later years. Even for such a grace and for such a man would we fervently pray. *Tu es sacerdos* is still impressed upon his soul, and if he is not miraculously saved, the time is fast approaching when that seal—destined for eternal glory—will burn as a stigma throughout the endless future.