

it is worth defending now. St. Jude tells us that we are to "*contend earnestly for that faith.*" These are strange times, perilous times, in which we are living; times which are trying and will try men's souls to the uttermost. What the Church of Christ has now to meet are insidious evils; forms of error, under such specious guises, as Satan himself, transformed into an angel of light, knows well how to present. More dangerous these perils are than open persecution, because they address themselves to those human weaknesses where man is most likely to be overcome. The modern press has risen to be an almost irresistible power, and you should do your best to control it in religious matters. It gives shape to public opinion. It dictates even to the pulpit, and has assumed in some cases the guardianship of the faith. This is not all! Religious error is much more prevalent amongst us than many imagine. Has not, then, *the Church* something, very much, to do in behalf of her sons and daughters in such an age and times like these? Should she not teach them—teach them faithfully—what are the elementary principles of the faith of Christ and of the Church of Christ? Is there any cause for wonder or surprise if, when she neglects such instruction, her sons and daughters should be the victims of Romanism on the one hand and of scoffing and infidelity on the other hand? I feel perfectly sure that if our clergy, by diligent study would make themselves able to meet all the objections of those sceptically inclined, and would kindly visit any amongst their people whom they suspect to be even slightly affected by scepticism at their houses and talk kindly, but earnestly, with them on the subject, they would receive their warmest gratitude and be the means of preventing immortal souls from going headlong to perdition. It is just as much your duty to do this, my brethren, as it is your duty to visit those suffering from bodily ailments. The laity of the Church are calling for this positive, distinct Church teaching. If the Church has a foundation to stand on, they want to know what that foundation is. More than this an intelligent conviction as to the claims of the Church, a firm belief that she is the body that Christ himself appointed for the conversion of the world, is an indispensable means for the enkindling of an earnest zeal on her behalf, and for unsealing the fountains of an overflowing liberality. Our people have means ample for all our wants. But we cannot reach their hearts and consciences; we cannot call forth their gifts for the needs of the Diocese in any other way than by plain and honest dealing. It is downright madness to cast distrust upon the Church's claims to our loyalty and devotion. But lastly, let me press upon you, one and all, the absolute necessity of cultivating a spirit of holiness in your own souls, if you are to influence the world around you. If Churchmen in their daily lives and conversations, in their duty