LIII. We have seen that the Franciscan Rule treats the neglect of any precept (not being a wanton neglect, course,) as an irregularity, but not as a sin, not even as a venial sin. Nor does it appear to give the superiors power to convert it into sin by giving to the precept an added stringency. The Dominican Rule refuses to make such a neglect a mortal sin, but implies that it may be a vental sin.

Nevertheless, says St. Dominic, there are three classes of precepts "which bind up unto mortal sin, quae obligant ad peccatum mortale

(1) All the precepts of Scripture. This simple provision at once dissi-pates into thin air the malevolent misinterpretation of Littledale and other assailants on this ground of the esuits and of Rome. Assuredly, as they would all allow, not only do not all the precepts of Scripture bind to the commission of sin, but not one of them so binds. There is not one of them which does not present itself, in its time and place, as a solemn duty before God. Not the observance of it,

but the neglect of it, is sin.

Now what excuse can Littledale have, or any one else, for not knowing this simple fact, which of itself settles the whole controversy? can be no excuse. Before bringing their fearful accusation against more than haif Christendom, they were solemnly bound to search the whole range of Christian antiquity, from the time when this formula obligare ad ccatum or obligationem ad peccatum inducere first appears, and to trace it down through every instance of its application, until its sense is established beyond possibility of doubt. They were bound at first to assume for it a moral and Christian meaning, and having done so they would have found their assumption confirmed by every fresh instance of its occurrence. However, let us postpone personal remarks

and examine further. (2.) The next class of precepts which "bind up to mortal sin" are: all the precepts of the canon law, that is, of course, all the precepts of this which are still in force, and which apply to a Dominican. Now even a Boston Orangeman, unless quite out of his head, will allow that not one precept of the cannon law sets out to ommand Catholics to sin. Everyone gives itself out as being, then and ere, something which it is a virtue to fulfil and a sin to disobey. over, the extremest Protestant will allow that most of the canonical precepts are morally innocent, and many of them morally commendable. The translate therefore obligare ad pecca tum as signifying "to bind to commit would be here as meaningless as monstrous. The sense here also is perfectly plain. These precepts of the canon law which are still in force bind Catholics in general, but many of them may be held to bind them at most only sub levi, under pain of vental sin, obligant ad peccatum veniale. So far they bind every Dominican also, simply as a Catnolic. St. Dominic, however, wishes his sons to be under still stricter obligation to the canon law. Accordingly he provides that every Dominican who consciously transgresses a now binding canonica precept which applies to him, is, even

We see that by this time the meaning of "obligare ad peccatum" is perfactly ascertained. Moreover neither St. Francis nor St. Domnie finds it all necessary to explain the formula. Of course he had no need to explain what, as Doctor Elward Steltz, after full examination, assures us, is in use throughout medieval theology, and al-ways in the same sense: "to bind up to the point of sin if disobeyed."

where another Catholic might only be condemned sub levi, condemned, by

virtue of his Rule, sub gravi. Oblivirtue of his Rule, sub gravi. "He is

bound up unto mortal sin.'

The third class of Dominican precepts which bind up to mortal sin is found in the commands of superiors, it enjoined under threat of excommunication or in virtue of holy obedience. Nevertheless even thes, solemn commands, if given unadvisedly, or angrily, not only do not bind up unto mortal sin, but do not bind at all.

This special authority gives to Dominican (apparently not to Franciscan) superiors, of reinforcing the precepts of the Rule or their own particular commands by giving them the power "obligandi ad peccatum," is evidently the original from which the similar on in the Jesuit Constitutions is believ.

The authority given to the ural. superior in both cases is the same. It the right of providing that a brother who in this case disobeys shall be bound up into sin:" if a Jesuit at least to vental, if a Dominican, always to mortal sin.

The next passage cited by Doctor Steltz, is about sixty years later. It is found in the great Dominican St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas is con sidering the question, whether all monastic precepts obligant ad peccum, "bind upon into sin." Of course neither he nor his questioners are such idiots as to be inquiring whether all monastic precepts bind people to sin. Of course none of them do. They are one and all given as means of leading a more excellent life, to the greater glory of God, and the greater perfection of man, and also, in the case of the mendicant orders especially, to more unto sin," so that a brother could not least the more rabid and blatant class,

pass over any, in any circumstances, without finding himself involved in sin, the monastic life would be too burdensome and discouraging. The secular life would then be more helpful to salvation, for seculars are not bound under all circumstances to the precepts of the Church, but only to the commandments Therefore, decides the Angelic Doctor, we cannot give to human or dinances in the form of monastic precepts an authority which we do not give to them in the august form of canons of the Church. Both classes of commands often bind sub peccato, but neither class does so invariably.

Of these six passages which I have cited from Edward Steitz, one from St Francis, is three hundred and thirty years older than the Jesuit Constitu tions; four, from St. Dominic, are three hundred and twenty four years is about two hundred and eighty years ad peccatum," or "ad culpam." Jesuits use also "obligationem ad pecca-tum inducore," but no one attributes to this any different sense. in all seven cases, as the connection of each shows, has one and the same meaning: "to bind to anything up to such a height of obligation as to induce sin if the obligation is disobeyed.

I may remark, in passing, that St. Thomas does not fortify his reasoning by reference to the Franciscan Rule, since those exemptions apply only to that one Order. He discusses the matter on universal principles.

These seven examples conclusively settle the meaning of obliquer ad peccatum. Six of them, we note, are taken from the thirteenth century Yet from the unintelligent slanders of Doctor Littledale and his accomplice -for they deserve no other name-we might suppose that the monastic life began with the Jesuits, in 1540, and that we have no concern to go back of them to ascertain the meaning ef their constitutions.

These citations of Stellz are crushingly conclusive. I will add one inequally conclusive, which I myself have found. Cardinal Bellar mine, who died one hundred and seuenty-one years before this scandalous distortion of the language of his order had come into anybody's head, is asking why St. Peter and the Apostles found the law of Moses "a yoke which neither they nor their fathers were able to bear." He gives two reasons, First, the law has such an expressive multiplicity of precepts. Secondly, every precept obligat ad peccatum 'binds up unto sin. Not a precept of the law binds a Hebrew to commit sin, but every one, if neglected, binds him up unto sin, involves him in sin. Even purely unconscious transgres-sions of purely ceremonial precepts were, if not substantially, yet at least prefiguratively, sins, and could only be expiated by a trespass offering. How different, signifies St. Peter, from the mild yoke of Christ, who treats in the former case, though not quite so nothing as sin, in the forum of conscience, unless it violates reverence, purity, justice or love, in other words,

un ess it violates charity The rabble followers of Littledale go on lying as before, but the weight of facts will at last crush its way through all the fabrications of slander Charles C. Starbuck.

Andover, Mass.

PREACHERS OF INFIDELITY ENEMIES OF SOCIETY.

Yes! they are the very worst ene mies of society. For, in depriving the people of their Christian faith, the people of they also deprive them of the strongest Obli- motives to morality, and thereby un dermine the very foundations of good society. By depriving the people of Christian faith they break down the barriers and open the floodgates of superstition, vice and immorality. In fact, they would throw us back into all the hideous demoralization and social corruption of ancient paganism. unhappy effects of doubt, skepticism and a waning faith are but too sadly manifest at the present time, when vice and immorality are increasing with fearful rapidity, and need n encouragement from infidels.

The preachers of infidelity, while presumptuously laying claim to the nighest reason, are, in fact, the most unreasonable people in the world. Man is naturally a religious being. whole history of the race proves that he will have a religion of some kind. If you do not give him a good religion he will make to himself a bad one. it is nanecessary to take time to prove that Christianity is superior to all other religious. One of its supreme excellencies is that it professes and teaches the supernatural. This appeals power fully to human nature, which naturally believes in and craves the supernat-ural. It appeals also to reason and to all that is highest, noblest and most praiseworthy in human sentiment and human conduct; and it satisfies the

highest aspirations of the human soul. We speak, of course, of Christianity as embodied in the Catholic Church. Proteetantism gives a handle to infidels. Experience proves that the principles and teachings of Protestantism lead logically to infidelity. Ingersoll was not far astray when he declared that

even Professor Briggs was on his side. The Catholic Caurch not only proposes a high standard of morality she presents the most powerful motives that can possibly be brought to bear upon the human soul for conformity to the rules of conduct which she lays down. In fact, that is the real head and front of the offence of the Catholic Church in the eyes of infidels, that she undivided service of mankind. Yet morality and these strong motives for if every monastic precept "bound up observance. Our infidel friends, at

do not like restraint. They prefer the liberty of free unrestrained licence. and self indulgence. They will not recognize any authority — human or divine — outside themselves. It irritates them beyond measure to be told the themselves of partity of that they must lead lives of purity, of self-denial and self-restraint - that they must govern their passions, discard selfishness and live not for them selves alone but for the good of others. But why should they object to such principles and such conduct? Is it not good for them as well as for society

Some of these men seem to have a perfect passion for airing their crude and blasphemous ravings before the public, and unfortunately they no trouble in gathering crowds of sympathizers who are ready, to ap-plaud the most irreverent and daring blasphemies, and these are spread be fore the public by a corrupting press. Why should these men wish to undermine the faith of the people? It does them no good, and it is certainly a great injury to the people. It not only, as we have said, takes away all restraint, and thereby encourages and immorality, but it deprives the poor, the distressed and afflicted of their only comfort and solace in this sorrow and trouble, and of the consoling hope of a glorious immortality beyond the grave. poor, deluded followers and admirers e Ingersolls, the Tom Paines, the Voltaires and others like them, should emember that ridicule is not the test of truth, and it does not follow that be cause there are difficulties connected with a subject, therefore it can not be true. The fact is, there are difficulties everywhere, and you can ridicule any subject if so disposed. We are surrounded with mysteries. The old adage says truly: "All things go adage says truly: "All things out in mystery." Infidels thems may well take note of the fact that they, in spite of their confident presumption, do not monopolize all the wisdom of the world. They simply set up their own judgment in opposi tion to the combined wisdom of ages -- the result of the investigation. he experience, and the judgment of the profoundest thinkers and the most brilliant intellects the world has ever produced. In fact, with a hold reck essness, begotten of pride and pre sumption, they are not only doing ir-reparable injury to the community, but are risking their own eternal well-being in the world to come, as they may find to their sorrow when their demoralizing mission on earth is ended. -Sacred Heart Review.

READ THE LIVES OF GOD'S SAINTS.

It people only knew the benefits to be derived from reading the lives of the great Saints, who, in every age, filled the Church with the sweet perfume of their holiness their blographies would be found in every Christian home. These are the books that Catholics should prefer to put into the hands of well disposed or inquiring friends. But it is not only, or principally, for the benefit of those outside the fold, that such books are written and published. They are meant not only to glorify God, who "Is wonderful in his Saints," but also to furnish us Catholics with examples of virtue, borrowed from those who are of the same earthly mould, that will encourage us, and, if need be, shame us into serving God and saving our souls. The very Saints themselves were often led to renounce the world and begin their sanctity by reading and reflecting on the holy deeds of the Saints who went before them. This was the beginning of conversion and perfect life for an Ignatius, a John Colon ani and others. Even the great St. Au gustine was released from his inward struggle and spiritual bondage, and called to "walk in newness of life by the short, pithy argument which he puts into the mouth of that "venerable matron, Chastity, in whose train walked countless hosts of young men and maidens." Tu non poteris, quod isti quod istæ? Why cannot you do as these men and women did?— Sacerdos in American Herald.

BAD COMPANY AND FOOLISH MARRIAGES.

Evil companionship has led more ouls to ruin in this city than any other source of evil of which we know We would say to the young readers of this paper, accept no one for a companion in life who does not fear God, and who is not governed in everything by the maxims of religion; otherwise he or she may cause you to lose your soul, whatever may be his or her natural goodness of heart .-- American

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cure.

SIGNALS OF DANGER.—Have you lost your appetite? Have you a coated tongue? Have you an unpleasant taste in the mouth? Does your head ache and have you dizziness? If so, your stomach is out of order and you need medicine. But you do not like medicine. He that prefers sickness to medicine must suffer, but under the circumstances the wise man will procure a box of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills und speedily get himself in health, and strive to keep so.

DUTIES OF CATHOLICS.

The Cardinal Archbishop of Malines says that "a home without at least one good Catholic paper habitually visiting it is an anomaly that should cease to exist in an age such as ours. every day by the hostile and unfair attitude of the secular press. And ye the increase of indifference among Catholics towards the Catholic press i pari passu with the increasing plain

the child is continuously active, and if it does not receive the proper training in youth, it will likely become an in fidel or skeptic. 'Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.' This is not only Scripture, but common sense and accords with universal experi

ence
"The state of public school is, and should be only for those un Christian people who will not even give their Christians. For Christians to send their children to an un Christian schoo is to violate their most sacred duty to their children, their Church and their

Thus spoke a Protestant preacher from his pulpit last Sunday and that in spite of the great flourish of trumpets which attended the opening of public schools. Truth travels slowly, but its reserved force makes it all the more wonderful and effective at the goal. - Church Progress.

USE OF INCENSE.

nowledge to be due to God, especia ly at divine worship, viz: prayer. accessory to worship now. the nature nor the symbolical meaning of incense has changed.

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"The natural guardian and instruct or of the child is the parent, and in olden times they fulfilled this obligation to the very letter. But in our day, circumstances prevent the parent from giving the educational and religious instruction desired, hence the necessity of supplementing their efforts by means of the parochial school. The Sanday school. while important in its place, yet is not sufficient for the spiritual education of your children. To send them five days in the week to a godless school is a dangerous exper iment. The child thus taught may grow up and become educated in sense, but not from a Christian stand point

The using of incense in the solemn services of the Church prompts an inquiry that it gives us pleasure to answer. Independent of all symbol ical significance, incense is a materia adjunct to the impressiveness of a religious service. Not only does it render splendor to the already solemn ritual of the Church, but it is a sub stance full of the sweetest fragrance and therefore a suitable offering to the Lord of Hosts, who, according to Cath-olic doctrine, is upon the altar. It was not without special significance that frankincense was one of the gifts offered by the three wise men, journeyed from a far off land to pay nomage to their new born Saviour What was offered to Him then is still offered by us; a meagre thing in itself to offer to an infinite God; but one which is given out of an abund ance of the heart, as being what little we finite creatures can afford. Whatever is calculated to arrest the attention of the worshipper, arouse his devo tion and raise him up to the super natural, is not necessarily indispens able, but, at least, appropriate to public worship. Incense at our public services has been handed down to us from the earliest ages of the Church, and the Church clings lovingly to old traditions. Incense is also a symbol of that duty which all Christians ac-For as incense cannot ascend until it first be enkindled, so our prayers can not mount up with efficacy to the first enkindled with divine love. "Let my prayer, O Lord, be directed as incense in Thy sight," says the Psalmist. The use of incense dates further back than even the Church herself. It was sanctioned and more than this was positively enjoined in the Old Law, by God Himself. For to Moses did He issue special in junction to employ it in the service of the Tab-ernacle. Just as God Himself deemed the use of incense a becoming accessory to public worship in days of old so does the Church deem it a becoming

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OCTOBER FIVE . MI

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"So also shall M
if you forgive no
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