

THE CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CLERGY.

At a public meeting held at Knutsford, Cheshire, on the reformation of juvenile offenders, the Marquis of Westminster in the chair, the following remarks were made by J. Cottingham, Esq., the police magistrate, in presence of the Rev. Chancellor, and several Catholic Clergy of the diocese. He said "that he would beg leave to make a suggestion; he thought that much good might be done in establishing a society for visiting the poor. The fact was too notorious that the crimes of the younger members of society originated not with themselves, but with their parents. In the course of the discharge of his duties as magistrate, he had, in one week, as many as forty and fifty boys brought before him, who had been sent out by their parents begging, threatened with chastisement unless they brought something back. In such cases schools were evidently of no use. He did not think that the clergy performed their duties properly in abstaining from close communion with the poorer members of society. In his district in the metropolis there was a population of 50,000, and although the proportion of Protestants to Catholics was about eight to one, where there were 100 Protestants brought before him, there was not one Catholic. He could only account for this by the fact that the Roman Catholic priests paid greater attention to the poor." The Rev. Chancellor Raikes said, in reply, that "Mr Cottingham had overlooked one thing in his remarks about the Protestant clergy, which was the vastness of the field and the scarcity of the laborers. He would remind Mr. Cottingham that it was the duty of the laymen to assist the clergy. The Protestant Clergy did not possess the same influence over the minds of the people as the Catholic Priests did."—*Tablet*.

SUBJECTS FOR MEDITATION.

From St. Bonaventure's Life of Christ.

OUR LORD'S WORDS A CAUSE OF OFFENCE.

'Marvel not that our words and actions should often be a cause of offence, no matter how well and faithfully spoken or done, since this oftentimes happened to our Lord himself, who could not do amiss. Thus, when on a certain occasion, the Pharisees inquired of our Lord, why His disciples eat with unwashed hands: our Lord sternly replied, and chid them, because they had no regard for inward holiness. At which they were offended and, yet, the Lord was not moved. Another time when he was teaching his heavenly truths in the synagogue, some of his disciples, like men of carnal minds, as they were, understood him not; and

withdrew. Whereupon he said to the Twelve.—'Will ye also go away?' And Peter answered for himself and the rest. 'Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life'.—Consider him then, under the forementioned circumstances, and those of a like description: how He spake with power and taught the Truth, nothing moved by the offence of the wicked and foolish. It is to be noted, therefore, in the first place, that we ought not to withdraw from acts of virtue, on account of the offence which some may take at them. Secondly, that we should give more heed to inward purity than to outward reputation, as our Lord expressly teaches us in St. Luke.—Again, that we ought to lead a spiritual life, so that the words of our Lord may not seem strange to us, as they did to those disciples, who, when Christ said, according to St. John,—'Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of Man,' and the rest, could not bear the words but withdrew. Rather let us recognize them as the words of eternal life, that, together with the Twelve, we may imitate him perfectly.'

BRISTOL—ALL SAINTS DAY.

Our spiritual Retreat, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Gentili and the Rev. Mr. Furlong, has just terminated. Bishop Ullathorne, Vicar Apostolic of the Western District, presided nearly every day. During this fortnight of Benediction, fifty three Protestants have been converted to the ancient Faith, and thousands, literally thousands of Catholics have received the bread of life and made their peace with God. Penitents flocked to the tribunal of Confession from the dawn of day till past the midnight hour, sometimes even till two in the morning. The Judgement Day alone will reveal what blessings these two holy men have been the means of conferring upon our land 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, and that preacheth the gospel of peace!' The chapel in which the mission was held, though for a long time served by secular clergy, belongs to the Jesuits, and they have now taken possession of it. God be with them! It is no sinecure that they have entered into. According to the last census, the number of Catholics here was 11,000, and at the present moment there is church accommodation only for about 2,000.—Our excellent and indefatigable Bishop, however, has now taken in hand to complete a very large chapel at Clifton, which has long remained in an unfinished state. Thanks to his untiring efforts, and with the blessing of God, I do trust that a bright day is dawning upon Bristol and its vicinity.

—*Tablet*.