

to rally to the defence of the sacred text. In doing so the Sovereign Pontiff could, if he wished, refer to history. When the Goths and the Huns descended upon the Roman Empire, like wolves on the fold, it was the despised Catholic monk of the middle ages who rescued the inspired writings from possible destruction. The Bible once more threatened by the Vandals of the newer, or higher criticism, needs protection, and it behooves Catholics to qualify themselves for the lofty mission of defence by making themselves conversant with every chapter and verse of scripture; because the weapon of the high critics is the historico-grammatical method, a weapon which is fatal to ignorance, but which, when countered by consummate knowledge, proves as futile as the sword of lath in the grasp of the clown.

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The philosophy of Herbert Spencer is detestable to a Christian. Happily in the course of a long life of ceaseless preaching between the covers of books and with the living word he has succeeded in making very few converts. The English, who are perceptibly growing tired of a hollow, snobbish state church, the merest mockery of a church, seem to be wistfully gazing Rome-ward. But while the ethics of the aged speculator are unsound, his courage is more than Spartan. While the Boer war was still under way, Herbert Spencer published a new book, "Facts and Comments," wherein he indulges in searching comments upon every department of life in which the subordination of the individual has been accomplished by abuses. Incidentally the philosopher cheerfully observes: "Were any one to call me dishonest or untruthful he would touch me to the quick. Were he to say I am unpatriotic he would leave me unmoved."

His definition of Chamberlain is: "An ambitious man of despotic temper, who in the Birmingham municipal government learned the art of subordinating others, and by ability and audacity forced himself to the front in the central government."

Of jingoism Spencer says: "So long as the passion of mastery overrides all others the slavery that goes along with imperialism will be tolerated among men who do not pride themselves on the possession of