CONSIDERATIONS ON CATHOLICISM

BY A PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN.

CCCXLII.

Sacred Heart Review.

"Republican" correspondent Thereproaches Rome that, notwithstanding her assumption of primacy over the Church, she has not even secured good morals, or anything even remotely resembling the kingdom of heaven on

How does she compare with Protestantism? Was the Reformation, morally, an improvement upon her control?

We must not lay too much stress upon the high moral standard which, according to the emphatic testimony of the great French Jesuit Bourdaloue, was maintained by the Huguenots of the seventeenth century. A dissenting minority, closely watched by a hostile majority, has every incitement to live well, be they Calvinists, Jews, Jansenists, or Transylvanian Socinians. The vast throng of merely nominal Christians is naturally found in the sunshine of public favor.

How was it in Switzerland, where Calvinism gained the predominance, yet leaving 40 per cent. Catholic? Undoubtedly Calvin, unlike Luther, proposed a high moral standard, and it is probable that in the first enthusiasm of the new movement Geneva, at least, was exemplary in morals. Now, however, as the Swiss Calvinist Dr. Philip Schaff attests, the moral standard of the two religions is about

Allowing for the ferocity which distinguished Scotland in the sixteenth century, there is no doubt that the Presbyterian Reformers were very solicitous for the moral elevation of gave a hasty glance, and passed on." the people at large, and that their efforts were not without result. Yet in view of the severely, I may fairly say savagely, legalistic methods they employed, we can not be surprised at the by Chambers, and I believe by Buckle. In our time, unquestionably, Scotland is a land in which any one may find himself much at ease, and will meet with multitudes of eminently excellent people. Yet we must not forget that unchastity is far more prevalent than in Catholic Ireland; that there is a great deal of gross intemperance; and that, as to the frequency of crime, the "Spectator" advantage of the former. True, crime especially concentrates itself in great

Cotton Mather declares that New England was peopled by a sifted seed father." of grace gathered by God out of three of divorce, while the murder or unquen ion, saying sarcastically to his fright against reception into church mem- will the Pope's Mass do you?" bership. Moreover, the confessional Most of his people, as he himself pulpit does not.

New England has in no way lessened doubled back upon himself again. of heaven on earth.

another, we are a hundred times worse happened in fact, and to see Europe doubt as to the cause. When he and nuns still left in the monasteries argues with his disciples that they should stay there for awhile, or that ought, by virtuousness and benevol- those who were content with Comence, to express their gratitude to God munion under one kind should be alfor the easy terms on which he has lowed to receive it until final order shown that they may be justified - was taken. No: it was not their conrather at variance with St. Peter, who science that should determine, it was tions obtained for successful students. declares that "the 'righteous' shall his, and this evidently a fictitious one.

much for love or good works. Very well; we will show that we are good Christians by being equally indifferent to them. And he declares that they are quite as good as their word. What a generation are we bringing up, says he, of thieves, robbers, liars, fornicators, adulterers, drunkards! He does not include murder, of which the Germans, like the English, have a great horror.

As to liberality, he signifies, that in the old Popish days, if they wanted money for a church, or school, or hospital, they kad to be careful how they published their wants, or they were like to be smothered under the stream of contributions that would pour in upon them. "Now", shows he, there need be no fear of this. We may beg and beg, and begging is the end of it.

The native German honesty seems to have largely recovered itself as early as 1600, as Shakespeare bears witness, but to the old Catholic standard of liberality they have never returned. Lutheran and niggard are still almost equivalent terms until they come over to this more freekanded land. One thing, however, I will say for them: they are more liberal to orphanhouses than to anything else, and their orphanages are admirably controlled.

Luther, whose inborn frankness of speech was often too much for policy, repeats, without contradicting it, the language held by the Saxon Protestants about the Reformers. Why could you not have let us alone? they complained. When we were in the Catholie Church, you know, we were living in piety and Christian brotherhood. You have taken from us all our old virtues, and what one good thing have you supplied to us in their stead? This was a question easier asked than answered. Like Dante, in the antechamber of Hell, he "stayed not, but

I believe that there can be no doubt of the perfect unity and steadfastness of Calvin's doctrinal convictions from the time of his leaving France till his hideous array of hideous facts recorded silence in which, for instance, the Catholic Dictionary passes over the foul charges made against his life by doubly apostate monks and frenzied Lutherans, I believe to be thoroughly ruinous-at least to Martin Luther. warranted. As to Luther, there can be no doubt that he was invincibly of Justification, and that he would far from the kingdom of heaven on have been quite as ready to slap St. earth as under the Pope of Witten-Paul in the face as to slap Melanch-berg. thon - " colaphos tuli" - had the has compared Catholic Bosnia with Apostle ventured to remind him that Andover, Mass. Presbyterian Edinburgh, much to the availing Faith is that which "worketh by love." As he wrote to Tetzel, it was not what the Dominican had said about Indulgences that caused the breach. "The child had quite another

Yet when we come to the rest of moral excellence. Yet Colonel Hig-sincerity. For instance, when he deformer is the higher virtue. As to over the refusal, we can not forget, honorableness in business dealing, that that after he had definitely abolished has never been a distinguishing excel- the Mass in Wittenberg, he openly lence of Puritanism. I need not speak threatened to return to the elder religchildren is too common to be urged ened hearers: "After all, what harm

gives opportunities of dealing with owns (I am speaking only of Wittenindividual conscience here which the berg), would have been perfectly ready to accept his suggestion of return, The remark of the " Christian Regis- could they have any confidence that, ter," quoted by the "Independent," after having landed them in hopeless that the growth of Catholicism in entanglements, he would not have

the force of practical Christian living | Surely such a way of dealing does and aims, may be commended to the not argue a very great seriousness of correspondent as proof that the belief. Nor, can we easily take it as coming in of Rome among us has at honest conviction when he declares least not put farther off the kingdom that no consequences, however ruinous to Germany or to Christendom (his must be honest and reliable. Branch As to the severance of Germany from clear vision foresaw the Thirty Years' Rome we have the emphatic and War), could justify any toleration, repeated testimony of Luther himself, however restricted, of the religion that it resulted in the precipitate ruin which he himself had professed until he of national morality. Says he in one was nearly forty years old. He is place, we are seven times worse; in ready to see more than half the popuanother, we are ten times worse; in lation of his country swept away, as than we were under the Pope. In other involved in throes of a mortal struggle words, the collapse of German virtue of a hundred years, rather than so is complete. Nor does he leave us in much as to consent that the monks convinced us that God cares not very heart, he cared for ceremonial mat- Ontario, Canada.

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ters, can easily believe that he really identified the Gospel with single or double Communion. That he should have insisted on the liberty given to the Utraquists, is perfectly intelligible; but that he should have insisted on proscribing all those who did not care to become Utraquists, and should have really believed that the Gospel would perish wherever the Cup was not found, is purely incredible. We can believe it of a Hussite, or of a Covenanter, but it is too much to ask us to believe it of a man so free and easy in all matters of outward administration as Martin Luther. We might as well believe it of Henry Ward Beecher, whose strong religiosity and coarse morality remind us, in a lower range, of the Wittenberg Friar.

One thing we may perhaps admit: that Martin Luther had come at least to believe that the universe revolved death. Moreover, the contemptuous around his throne of power, "seated in the sides of the North," and that the slightest relaxation of the requirement of absolute obedience to him, in the minutest particular, would be

I think that it may be pleaded with considerable likelihood that Germany, devoted to his own antinomian theory even under Alexander VI., was not so

Charles C. Starbuck.

One of the Vilest Diseases

Is catarrh which first attacks the nose and throat, and finally spreads all through the system. The one sure cure is fragrant, healing Catarrhezone which kingdoms. Surely then she ought now Luther's system, it is sometimes to the root of the trouble. Mr. T. Y. to stand on a very high mount of rather hard to put perfect faith in his MacVicar, of Yarmouth, suffered for years from catarrh, and says,"In my long experience with this loathsome disginson remarks that the influx of nounces the Mass as "an abomination long experience with this locatisome dis-Catholic Irish has raised the standard and idolatry," which ought not to be lieved and cured so promptly as Catarrh-long ago. They decided, as all must, of chastity. It may have laward that tolerated, even for a little while, ozone. When my nostrils were so stuff-that it is perfect in every particular. of temperance, yet undoubtedly the though the world should go to ruin ed up that I couldn't breathe, I found They continue to favor us with their a few inhalations of Catarrhozone were orders because we have reduced tailoring sufficient to clear away the mucous. to an art and can give not only correct I am perfectly cured by Catarrhozone fit and the best workmanship, but also and free from the disease entirely." the best value.

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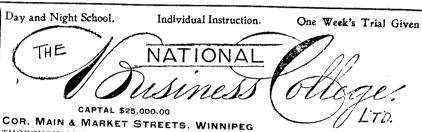
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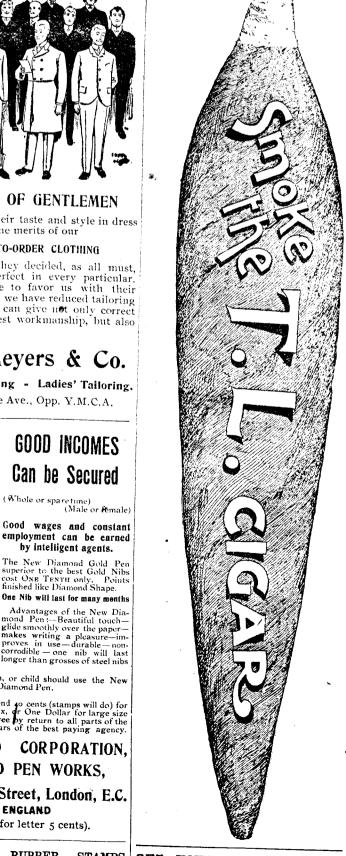
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