

The atmosphere of light, honesty, truth and holiness, in which the ministers of the Gospel are born and raised, makes it almost impossible to realize the dark mysteries of idolatry, immorality, degrading slavery, hatred of the Word of God which are at their doors under the name of Romanism.

Just as in the last civil war, between the Southern and the Northern States, many times, the Confederates not only dressed themselves with the very clothing and marched under the colours of the soldiers of liberty in order to approach and conquer them more easily; so, to-day, many skillful Roman Catholic writers conceal their own colours, and adopt for a time the colours of the soldiers of the Gospel, in order to approach and conquer them more easily.

Many of the most learned and honest Protestant ministers and laymen not only in England but also in the United States and Canada are to-day the victims of that deception.

Please, Mr. Editor, reproduce in your columns the following few arguments I respectfully present to the consideration of your readers to show them that it is their duty to do all in their power to convert the idolaters who are in China, Japan, India, under the names of Buddhists, Brahminists, etc., it is still more their duty to give the light of the Gospel of Christ to the idolaters who are at their doors under the name of Roman Catholics. Yours truly in Christ,

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PAPAL IDOLATRY.

(First Consideration.)

TRANSUBSTANTIATION IS IDOLATRY.

In order that both Protestants and Roman Catholics may clearly understand that we are perfectly correct when we say that the Church of Rome makes a god of a wafer, and is, in consequence, an idolatrous Church, I copy here the decrees of the Council of Trent.

COUNCIL OF TRENT.

Canon I.—“If any shall deny that in the Sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, there is contained truly, really, and substantially the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, but shall say He is only in it in sign or figure, or power, let him be accursed.”

Canon II.—“If any man shall say that in the Sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, there remains the substance of bread and wine, together with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and shall deny that wonderful and remarkable conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the body and the whole substance of the wine into the blood, while only the appearance of bread and wine remains, which conversion the Catholic Church most aptly calls Transubstantiation, let him be accursed.”

Canon VI.—“If any man shall say, that in the holy sacrament of the Eucharist, Christ the only begotten Son of God, is not to be adored, and that outwardly with the worship of Latria, and therefore that He ought neither to be venerated by any especial celebration, nor carried solemnly about in processions, according to the universal and laudable right and custom of the Church, or that He ought not publicly to be exhibited to the people that He may be worshipped, and that the worshippers of Him are idolaters, let him be accursed.”

The Catechism of the Council of Trent speaks still more clearly and says:—

“The pastors will explain that in the holy Eucharist (the consecrated wafer) the true body of Jesus Christ is contained with all that constitutes a body and belongs to it, such as the bones and nerves, and that is a whole Christ.”—*Council of Trent Catechism.*

Both Roman Catholics and Protestants acknowledge that idolatry is one of the greatest sins that man can commit. But what is “Idolatry?” It is the giving to a created being the respect, adoration and love which are due to God alone. To make a god with our own hands, or to worship as a god, any of the creatures which are on earth, in the air, in the sea, or even in heaven is idolatry.

On the Mount Sinai, in the midst of lightnings and thunders, God Almighty wrote on the stone with His own fingers:—

“I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

“Thou shalt not have other gods before Me.”

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me.”—Exodus xx.

God has never uttered any words more plain, simple, and clear than these. The young schoolboy, as well as the most profound philosopher, understands that by these words God Almighty forever forbade to make a god of a thing which is created, even if that created thing dwells in “heaven above.”

Now what does the Right Rev. Cardinal Taschereau and all the priests of Rome do every morning? Do they not take a “created thing,” a wafer and do they not pretend to change that wafer into God? Do they not adore that wafer, when they think it turned into God?

What was the crime of Aaron and the people in the desert when they made the golden calf? Was it not idolatry? But where is the difference between the crime of Aaron and the iniquity of Cardinal Taschereau and all the priests of Rome? The only difference is that the first one made a god of the melted gold bracelets and earrings of the Israelites, while the latter make their gods of a little dough baked between two well-polished heated irons. Aaron said to the people: “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf; and they said,

“These be thy Gods, O Israel, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt.” (Exodus xxxii.) Now, Cardinal Taschereau, with all the priests, every day say to their servants: “I want to make new gods and new Christs; I have no more in the tabernacle.” And the servants of the Cardinal and of the priests bring some wheat flour, mix it with a little water, and bake the dough between that heated graving tool. And a moment after the bishop and the priests, holding in their hands those wafers, say: “This is Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.”

“This is God Himself, who, being incarnated, has saved you on the cross. . . . Come and adore Him.” And the people say in their heart, and they sing with their lips, “This is our incarnated god, who, on the cross, died to save us. . . . Let us adore him.” And prostrating their faces to the dust, they adore their god whom their priest has just made before their eyes with a wafer baked with a heated graving tool!

Is not the idolatry of Cardinal Taschereau and his priests as gross and criminal as the idolatry of Aaron and his people? Is not the wafer god of the Pope as contemptible, ridiculous, impotent, powerless as the gold calf-god of Aaron? Are not the two forms of idolatry as insulting to the great God, who has said: “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them?”

Now, mark you, the idolatrous Israelites, in worshipping the golden calf, had indeed the intention of worshipping the true God, “who brought them out of Egypt,” just as the idolatrous papists, in worshipping the wafer, have the intention of worshipping the true Christ, who saved us.

I know that Cardinal Taschereau and his priests will answer me: “Jesus Christ has given us the order and the power to change the wafer into our God when He said, ‘this is my body, . . . this is my blood.’ Do this in remembrance of Me.” But I answer: “Christ has never received the power from His Father to do a thing that the Eternal Father had forever forbidden.” . . . On Mount Sinai that Almighty God had given His command, “Never to make an engraven image of anything . . . and turn that graven image into God . . . bow down before it, and adore it.” Has God ever repealed that law? No! He can not! For Himself, speaking through Christ, has said: “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away.” Has not Christ said: “I come to fulfil the commandments of My Father?” How could He have said these words if He had given to the Popes and their priests the power to break the most solemn and sacred of them all? No! Christ would not allow His apostles and His Church to take a wafer, make an image upon it, turn it into God, and adore it. We know He said: “This is My body.” (Luke xxii. 19.) But this was in a figurative way, to tell them that the bread was to be broken and eaten by them, that they might ever remember “His body nailed to the cross for them.”

It was then as it is now; “When a thing is chosen to represent another thing, it is called by the name of the thing it represents.” For instance, when a man shows the portrait of his wife and children to his friends, he does not generally say: This is the portrait, the remembrance of my dear wife and my beloved children; he simply says: “This is my wife; these are my children.”

David says, Psalm cxxi. 105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.” Will ever the Pope sufficiently forget all the laws of common sense to tell us that the Word of God is really a lamp? And when Christ says: “I am the door” (John x. 9), “I am the true vine” (John xv. 1), had he really the intention to make us believe that He was a door, or a vine? Does not Paul, speaking of the “Rock” from which Moses drew the waters in the desert say, “That Rock was Christ?”

Will the Roman Catholic bishops and priests, some day, try to persuade us that the Rock was really Christ, His body, soul and divinity, because the Holy Ghost says, “That Rock was Christ?” No. They acknowledge that the Rock was not Christ, though Paul says “The Rock was Christ.” It was only a figure, a type, a memorial of Christ, and because it was so it was called Christ. So when our Saviour says, “This (bread) is My body. . . . Do this in remembrance of Me,” He makes us understand that the bread was called “His body,” because it was presented to us that we might remember “His body.”

But even suppose, for the sake of argument, that we should interpret these words of Christ, “This is My body—this is My blood,” in their literal meaning, should we not yet hold him to be an idolator who would worship the wafer, since Christ would have taught by these words the presence only of His material, human body, the body that died (My body which was broken for you), and His material blood, and not of His divinity? Now, what the Christian worships in Christ is not the body that died on the cross, but the Son of God that sitteth at the right hand of God.

(Second Consideration.)

TRANSUBSTANTIATION IS THE MOST DEGRADING FORM OF IDOLATRY.

When the Persians adore the rising sun, they give their homage to the greatest and most glorious being which is presented to our human vision. The magnificent fiery orb, which rises as a giant, every morning, from behind the horizon, to pass over the world and pour everywhere its floods of heat, light and life, cannot be contemplated without feelings of respect, admiration and awe. Man must raise his eyes up

to see that glorious sun; he must take up the eagle's wings to follow its giant march throughout the myriads of worlds which are suspended over our heads. It is easy to understand that poor, fallen and blind humanity may take that great being for a God.

Can we be surprised that the Roman Catholic nations are so fast falling down into the abyss of infidelity and atheism when they hear their priests telling them that the wafer is the great God who has created heaven and earth and saved this perishing world by dying on the cross?

(Third Consideration.)

TRANSUBSTANTIATION MAKES GOD INFERIOR TO MAN, AND CHANGES MAN INTO GOD

The Creator is above the created thing, but it is evident that, in the dogma of Transubstantiation, the priest of Rome is put much above his god.

It will not require long reflection to understand, that, by his magical power, in the act of changing the wafer into their god, the popes and the priests of Rome become infinitely stronger, more powerful, and superior to their poor ignominious divinity. For they assure us that the very moment the priest speaks, God obeys, and submits Himself to the will of that priest; He can not resist; he can not delay; He must come down from His throne, and lodge His humanity and divinity in that little round and thin cake on which the officiating priest has said, “*Hoc est enim corpus meum.*”

Let both the Roman Catholics and the Protestants well consider that the Church of Rome positively says that the priests can perform that tremendous miracle, not only once a day, at mass, but at every moment of the day and night it will please them to pronounce those words, with the required intention, the bread is changed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. For instance, let the bishops and priests of Paris and London, of Constantinople and Pekin, of Rome and Geneva, of New York, Quebec or Montreal, pass through the streets of those cities to-day, and, stopping before their bakeries, pronounce on the loaves of bread which are there, under their eyes, the words: “*Hoc est enim corpus meum.*” there will not remain a single loaf of bread in any one of those bakeries! Every loaf will have been changed into the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. More than that, every particle of those loaves if they are crushed into fragments and pulverized, will be changed into the true body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ! and eternally cursed must be those who will not adore each one of those millions and millions of fragments and atoms of bread as the great and merciful God.

But if these considerations are not sufficient to convince every intelligent Roman Catholic and Protestant of the monstrous character which the dogma of transubstantiation bears on its face, let them reflect on the following propositions, which I challenge the Catholic bishops of the whole world to deny:—

The Church of Rome not only teaches her blind followers that every good priest has the tremendous power of transforming the wafers, and all the wheat loaves of bread which are on the earth, into God, at every hour of the day or night, in the churches, in the streets, in the bakers' carts and bakers' shops, but every “bad priest,” every drunken priest, every interdicted and excommunicated priest, has the same power over God. And no pope, no bishop, not God Almighty Himself, can take away from those bad, drunken, interdicted excommunicated priests that super-divine power of changing the millions of loaves of bread which are on this globe into as many bodies, souls, divinities of Jesus Christ.

For instance, do not the bishops and the priests of Rome say that I, the ex-priest Chiniquy, am one of the most wicked men the world has ever seen? Well, it is one of the articles of the religion taught by the infallible Church of Rome, that I, Chiniquy, the infamous, the interdicted, excommunicated priest, still possess that supreme power over the God of Rome, and I could go to-morrow through the streets of your fair city and turn all the loaves of bread in the bakeries into popish gods.

Does not the Church of Rome proclaim by that incredible doctrine that not only her good but her bad and renegade priests are more above God in power, dignity, prerogatives, than heaven is above the earth? Does not the Pope prove by such teaching that he and his priests are the anti-Christ of whom Paul speaks?—“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is a God.”—2nd. Thes. ii.

Where can we find that “man of perdition, who exalteth himself above God,” if he is not the Pope and his priests, who boast that at every hour of the day or night, God Almighty is bound to come at their bidding into that little cake, and when there, He is absolutely powerless to resist them! They carry Him in their vest or pants' pocket; they drive Him in their buggies through the country, or force Him to accompany them on railways or steamships, shut Him up in their secret chambers, or tabernacles, where, more than once, the rats and mice put an end to His miserable existence.

Now, I ask—Was it possible to invent anything more insulting to God and man than that doctrine of Transubstantiation? Could the Divine person of God and His Christ be more outraged and degraded than by that lie which makes man believe that he may make his god with a little cake, eat it, vomit it, and swallow it again?

Satan, not being able to dethrone our great God from heaven, has at last succeeded, through the Pope, to drag him down from His throne in the human heart, and drown Him in the vomited matters rejected by the stomach of a sick priest! What a triumph for Satan in his war against God and His beloved and eternal Son!

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