

The Life and Catholic Journalism

OF THE LATE

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Catholic Register.*

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*For the Carmelite Review.*

**CHAPTER III.**

**JAS. A. McMASTER AS A CATHOLIC JOURNALIST—LETTERS OF POPES PIUS IX AND LEO XIII ON CATHOLIC JOURNALISM—McMASTER'S CHAMPIONSHIP OF TRUTH—ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN'S TRIBUTE TO HIS GREAT FAITH AND LOVE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD—FATHER HECKER PLACES HIS NAME BESIDE THAT OF THE GREAT BROWNSON—MR. MAURICE F. EGAN'S ESTIMATE OF HIS LOSS BY DEATH TO CATHOLIC JOURNALISM IN THE UNITED STATES.**

**I**N our country, unfortunately, an unchristian press is guaranteed the fullest license, and the evils that flow from that license are widely spread. It is certain that this unrestricted range of a press unheeded of God, which thousands of men are ready to abuse, and which allows every one to constitute himself a teacher of the people, whilst it must be suffered, cannot be defended either on principles of reason or of faith. It becomes, therefore, not only our privilege, but even our solemn duty to combat the unchristian by a truly christian press, a matter on which Popes Pius IX and Leo XIII have spoken in an unmistakable manner:

"Providence," said Pius IX, "has given in our days a special mission to the Catholic press. It is for it to preserve the principles of order and of the faith, where they still prevail, and to propagate them where impiety and cold indifference has caused them to be forgotten."

And again he said:

"May God bless and direct, through the intercession of St. Francis de Sales, to whom they wish to commend themselves, the writers of Catholic Periodicals, who defend the cause of religion, its rights and those of this Apostolic See, obediently and faithfully abiding by its teaching and councils."

And again, in an encyclical letter, Pius IX, requests the bishops

"To assist with all good will and favor those men who, animated with Catholic spirit, and possessed of sufficient learning, are laboring in writing and publishing books and journals for the defence and propagation of Catholic doctrine."

A letter addressed, in the name of Pope Pius IX, to the editors of the *Il Credente Catholico* (The faithful Catholic) reads as follows:

"Since the church is at present exposed to so many bitter attacks, and the truth she teaches is so violently impugned, and since the number of impious newspapers, and their licentious manner of speaking is so great, it has, indeed, been very gratifying to our Holy Father to learn that there are also Catholic editors, who, in their newspapers, endeavor to expose the erroneous principles of the times, to enlighten the minds of the people who are deceived by these perverse doctrines, to instil into their hearts, religious sentiments and to confirm them therein, and to preserve the purity of morals, and to defend the sacred rights of the church.

"These services which you have been rendering to religion as well as the service of those who have subscribed to your paper, have been most pleasing to His Holiness. As these services in vindicating Catholic truths, are, on the one hand, proofs of the loyalty and devotedness of those who have imposed upon themselves such a duty which, though most excellent, yet is, in truth, very arduous, and for the most part, unappreciated, so also, on the other hand, those who value your efforts by supporting them with their subscriptions, show true filial piety for their common mother, the church, whom in this way they endeavor to console and gladden in her great afflictions and trials. Hence His Holiness wishes me to let you know, both the editors and subscribers to their paper, how much pleasure you give him, and to exhort you to continue to combat cheerfully for justice, and not to suffer yourselves by any kind of difficulties to relent in this holy warfare. And in order that, with the grace of God, you may be able to accomplish your work, and also in order to show his great love for you, he most affectionately bestows upon you all his Apostolic Benediction.

"FRANCISCUS MERCURELLI.

"SS. D. N. a Brev. ad Pr."

Die 28 Junii, 1875 (*Acta S. Sedis*, Vol. VIII, p. 622.)

In an audience granted by Leo XIII to the Rev. Domenico Tinetti, successor to the late Don Giacomo Margotti, as editor of the *Unita Catholica* of Turin, His Holiness, after words of affectionate appreciation of the services rendered to the church by the deceased editor, spoke approvingly of the *Unita Catholica*, reminding the editor