

FATHER CHINIQUY ON CELIBACY.

AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION: DID HE
VIOLATE HIS OATH?

MISS REBECCA CHINIQUY, daughter of Rev. Charles Chiniquy, of St. Anne, Ill., was on August 3rd united in marriage to Rev. Joseph Morin, of Lowell, Massachusetts. A Bible crowned with flowers was carried in the marriage procession. Before the marriage ceremony took place Mr. Chiniquy delivered an address on "Marriage," from which we make a few extracts:—

"It was the usage in the days of old, to crown the victors when returning from the battle field. This is the reason why we have carried this Bible in triumph, and have covered it with crowns of flowers, to this house of prayer. It is to that Bible we owe the victories we have gained in the past, against the most implacable enemy of the Gospel of Christ and the rights of man. It is in that Bible we have found the sharp sword which has cut the ignominious and heavy chains which had so long kept us the slaves of men; it is from that Bible, and not from ourselves, we have got the strength and the wisdom we wanted, to fight the mighty battle of these last thirty years; it is to that Bible we owe the glorious liberties brought to us from heaven by Christ; and it is to that Bible we owe the joys of this solemn hour. The respect I owe to the numerous Roman Catholic and Protestant friends who surround me here, as well as the respect I owe to myself, impose upon me the duty of answering several questions which present themselves to the mind of every one here: 'Before you were ordained a priest of Rome, the 23rd of September, 1833, had you not sworn before God and man that you would never marry? Are you not ashamed for having broken your sacred vows? Do you not hear the voice of your conscience condemning you to-day, when you stand here between your wife and your children, in our presence, after having trampled under your feet such solemn oaths?'

Before answering these questions, allow me to ask your views about the solemn and public oath taken by Herod in favor of the daughter of Herodias. Was he really obliged to cut the head off John the Baptist when that infamous girl asked him to do it? You unanimously answer me, that not only Herod was not obliged to fulfill his criminal oath, but that he committed a new crime by doing what he had sworn to do. You, then, acknowledge that there are vows and oaths against the laws of God which must not be kept.

Well, there has never been a more impious vow than the celibacy of the Priests. That vow is against the most sacred laws written by the hand of God not only in the heart, but in every drop of man's blood; it is in direct opposition to the first solemn command of our Creator. Open this holy Bible, and you will read, 'It is not good for man to be alone. Let us make him a help like unto himself.'—Genesis 2: 18. Have these words ever been retracted? No! Never. All the echoes of heaven and earth repeat again that sentence which fell from the very lips of God: 'It is not good for man to be alone; let us

make a help like unto himself.' Has our Saviour Jesus Christ said anything to make us believe that He wanted to repeal those solemn words? No, it is the contrary. It was among married men that he selected His apostles, and, far from ordering them to give up their wives, the Gospel tells us positively that those holy apostles were not only living with their wives when at home, but they were travelling with them when delivering their divine messages all over the world. Here is the unanswerable testimony of St. Paul on the subject: 'Have we not power to eat and drink? Have we not the power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as the other apostles, and as the Brethren of Jesus Christ, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have we not power to do this?'—I Cor. 9: 1, 5.

But what will, perhaps, more surprise many of you, is, that the Church of Rome herself is an irrefutable witness that the vow of celibacy does not come from God, but that it is a human, a diabolical ordinance. All her historians acknowledge that her priests were allowed to be married during nearly 1,000 years. Even to-day, many of her priests who live in Greece and Asia are married. It is a public fact, which not a single respectable priest can ignore and deny to-day. When, at the great Council of Nice, a bishop proposed that the priests should be forbidden to marry, that proposition was rejected by an almost unanimous vote. Then I broke my vows of celibacy as Luther, Knox, and thousands of holy men did before me, only when I saw clearly that they were not ordinances of God, but of man, or rather of the Devil. I gave up that celibacy when I was sure that it was not brought from heaven by Christ to sanctify and save the world, but that it was brought from hell to deceive and destroy souls. I know some people say, 'Mr. Chiniquy left the Church of Rome to get a wife'; but those who think and say that, will see their mistake when they know that I left the Church of Rome in 1838, and that I got married only in 1861.

The marriage of my dear child is a more remarkable thing than many suspect. She is the first daughter of a priest of Rome who is publicly and solemnly offered on the Christian altar of marriage by her father in this great Republic! This shows that the world is moving on.

At the end of the eighth and ninth centuries, when the Church of Rome began to forbid her priests to marry, she dragged to the scaffold, and burnt many of those priests who refused to obey her cruel law. She did not only burn those unfortunate priests, but she burnt their wives and children who refused to submit to spend their lives in the dark dungeons with which she had covered the world under the name of convents. If to-day I am saved, with the wife and children whom God has given me, from that horrible death, I owe it to this holy Gospel. There it is written with the blood of the Lamb that "Marriage is honorable in all."—Hebrews 13: 4, and the Pope and his bishops will not dare to lay their bloody hands on me nor on my wife and children, for we are protected by the glorious American flag, which is just floating to the breeze at the top of our steeple, and a million of heroes have written with their blood, on that flag, the message brought by Christ from heaven—Liberty of Conscience!!!

With this Bible before our eyes, as a lamp to guide our steps in this land of pilgrimage, and with the stars and stripes of the brave and the free to protect our honor and lives! to-day there is nothing to mar our joys. Oh! then, lend me your tongues to praise my God; lend me your