

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

BY A PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN.

CCXXIV.

What I have said, going to show that the Jesuits have very little respectability for Voltaire's frivolous, boism and blasphemous hatred of Christ, has the more force from the fact that the main editor of the Encyclopedie was Bayle a Protestant, less truculent in temper than Voltaire, but of the same tenor of opinion.

As much may be said, in a general way, of the other two instances which the Witness brings up, namely, Joseph McCabe and Ernest Renan.

As concerns McCabe, whose book I have read from beginning to end (and the Witness says, is a very good illustration of a class of Protestant writers much more respectable and less virulent than such people as Lansing, but of no great depth of research, and of censurable slouchiness in the application of the facts which they do pick up.

After mentioning that McCabe, having been a Franciscan, has become an atheist, a disciple of Haeckel, the Witness proceeds to Romanism in its continental form, where all sorts of superstition are developed, in apt to drive the intelligent into the dark abysses of infidelity, as in France and Italy.

The natural meaning of this is that McCabe, having been brought up under "continental Romanism," has been driven by its superstitious unreasonableness into atheism, and his monastic life has been chiefly spent in Ireland and England. He nowhere intimates that his few years in Belgium had any particular effect on either his character or opinions, although he plainly thinks that his Belgian brethren are rather a stupid set.

As to the English Franciscans, he thinks they are very much like so many Churches of England clergymen, some admirably good, and highly intellectual; some very far from good; the bulk reputable and sincere, but not remarkable either in character or life, as the bulk of no human brotherhood can easily be. He thinks the monastic training of priests (except the Jesuit) rather behind the times, but he nowhere represents his own defection from God as due to any resentment over an inadequate or a superstitious education.

Of the Jesuits he has nothing disparaging to say, although he thinks it might be better if they were not quite so hard to train into line with the seculars and the other regulars. However he does take it rather ill that the Jesuits believe that, as salvation consists in union with God, he who does not believe in God, the personal God, is not on the way to heaven.

McCabe's infidelity seems to be nothing different from infidelity in general, he does not like other men's, a free moral choice between the two alternatives pronounced by Marcus Aurelius: "God or atoms: Which?" These two alternatives are as old as developed thought.

FIVE-MINUTE SERMON.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost.

THANKSGIVING.

Where are the nine? (St. Luke xvii, 11)

Of the ten lepers whose cure is related in this day's Gospel, only one returned to give thanks, and he was a Samaritan; the others went their way; they were cured indeed of their dreadful disease, but disgraced by our Lord's sad question, Where are the nine?

Thanksgiving, brethren, should follow after God's mercies to us, not only as a matter of justice, but in order to secure the effect of those mercies themselves. Just as, in our bodily life, in order to get the benefit of fresh air, breathing in must be followed by breathing out, so the giving of thanks must follow the reception of all divine favors.

The Witness ends up thus: "In Christ alone we have the fullness of the Godhead bodily." Unquestionably. And in what respect does Rome differ here from Geneva, Wittenberg, Lambeth, or Edinburgh, at least as these originally taught? What Geneva and Wittenberg teach now may be not very certain. Is it not true, as Luther says, after all his years of conflict with Rome: "Many and mighty saints have remained under the Pope." The Papists have the authentic Creed, the authentic Sacraments, the authentic Christianity? Then what does the Witness mean, except to insinuate, what it dares not declare, that to be in the communion of Rome is to be out of the communion of Christ, and to support this insinuation by various misinterpreted and misapplied facts?

CHARLES C. STARBUCK.

Andover, Mass.

"Are there" many sad superstitions current in Italy and Spain? For which the Church of these countries may be held fairly responsible? We know that such a charge is untrue and incapable of proof. At the same time we acknowledge that it is hopeless to expect Protestants to agree with us. Protestants describe the worship we pay to Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist as idolatry; the wearing of the scapular, the ivory of the clients of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, is superstition; the saying of the Rosary every day is evidence of mental weakness, of a pagan disposition, and of a sad and urgent need of evangelization.

The fact that every priest and Bishop in the United States may say the Rosary daily, and wear the scapular constantly, and that even a Leo XIII, with the beads in his hands, dies wearing Mary's badge, does not weigh a feather with the superior brand of Christians. It is this superstition; this is the verdict of the men whose higher knowledge of Christianity gives them a right to say what superstition is.

The Schaff Herzog "Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge" (Protestant of course) says: "Superstition is always a false and erring faith. . . . The belief in pilgrimages, the wonderful cure of Lourdes (even though verified by the most distinguished physicians of the world), the efficacy of the blood of St. Januarius, are all superstitions." McClintock and Strong's "Encyclopedia," another superior brand of Christianity, give us a more enlightening definition or description of superstition in these words: "The dependence placed by many on baptism, the Lord's Supper and other ceremonies." So much to indicate the gulf that separates Protestants and Catholics on this subject.

Superstition may be defined as "the worship of a false divinity, or the false worship of the true God." The very nature of the Church, her laws, her methods, her constant teaching, the close and personal intercourse between her priests and people in their homes, in church, but especially in the tribunal of Penance, reduce to the minimum the danger of a Catholic people falling into superstition. There is, however, a strange disposition among all classes of people, learned as well as unlearned, to become victims of some one of the myriad kinds of superstition in vogue, at one time or another, in all countries. Catholics, as well as others, are exposed to this danger, and not infrequently become the victims of various religious delusions. But against this danger they have thousands and one protecting influences, as indicated above, of which Protestants are deprived. The groundless claim of superior intelligence which Protestants sometimes make is a chimera evidenced to the world every day by a thousand facts. Spiritualism, Christian Science, Dowism, and no end of other religious shams, which successfully appeal for support to the most intelligent Protestants, reap their richest harvest in Protestant countries—a fact that should debar forever the superior-intelligence claim. Protestant superstition—ingrained, deeply rooted and wide-spread—is the rich soil from which all these "isms" draw their life, strength, and vigorous activity. Italy and Spain furnish no recruits to these anti-Christian superstitions. (Until quite recently the Irish usually furnished, to the ordinary Protestant, examples of superstition, but our friend, the Rev. Mr. Starbuck, is always partial to the Irish. Is it because he has a strain of Irish blood? No; we remember now, his Irish-Catholic nurse made him a friend of Irishmen, and almost a Catholic, we believe. Our reverend friend, of course, remembers how Buckle in his "History of Civilization in England" makes the Scotch out to be the most superstitious people in Europe.) He says: "Scotland is a grossly superstitious country. . . . the people tremble like sheep before their pastors, and yield assent to every absurdity they hear, provided their Church has sanctioned it." Ed.)

Mary leads us to the feet of her Divine Son. No one can be a friend of hers who is not a friend of Jesus.

THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY.

It is strange how many of our Protestant brethren will cling to the Puritan idea of the observance of Sunday.

We must close stores of every description, refrain from all kinds of amusement, almost do without the necessities of life, if we have failed to procure them on Saturday, and make a heroic struggle to keep holy on the Lord's day.

The motive which prompts such a strict interpretation of the Third Commandment is a good one. It is not our intention to find fault with every description, or to go on an excursion, or play cards, or have music in our homes.

Again, recreation if done with the proper motives may be the best way of keeping holy on Sunday. St. Ignatius was playing checkers one evening in recreation when his brother religious began to talk about what would be the wisest thing to do if an angel should suddenly announce to them that each would die at the end of the next day.

Let us give thanks, too, in our fervent morning prayers that we have escaped the dangers of the night, and in our night prayers that we have been saved from the noon-day demon. When we rise from our meals let us offer a word of thanks, making at least the sign of the cross, blessing God for the health he gives us and our family. Let us thank him for our afflictions—yes, even for temptations; for the pains we suffer thereby are the growing-pains of the soul. Especially after receiving Holy Communion let us give love and heartfelt thanks for all God's dealing with us; for we have then received the greatest of all His gifts, His only begotten Son.

IMITATION OF CHRIST. THAT ALL GRIEVOUS THINGS ARE TO BE ENDURED FOR LIFE EVERLASTING. Be not dismayed son, with the labours which thou hast undertaken for Me, neither let the tribulations which befall thee quite cast thee down; but let my promise strengthen and comfort thee in all events.

Utilizing Grace. Do not grow weary of well-doing. All the associates of the League should avail themselves of every opportunity of fasting and prayer to improve their spiritual condition. They should enter into the spirit of the season fully, and utilize each means of grace offered by the Church. If they do they will be strengthened in body and soul for the never-ending combat which they must go through.

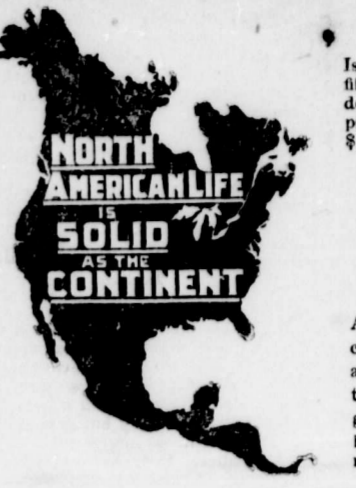
The Nine First Fridays. Question. Can you inform a subscriber whether there has been any decree of the S. Congregation definitely deciding that the series of nine consecutive Communions received on first Friday of the nine months is not broken when one of these first Fridays happens to be Good Friday?

Tobacco and Liquor Habits. Dr. McTaggart's tobacco remedy removes all desire for the weed in a few days. A vegetable medicine, and only requires touching the tongue with it occasionally. Price 25c.



Nestlé's Food has been the standard infant's diet for forty years. It nourishes the child so that the increase in weight is immediately noted. It contains the right elements of nutrition, so combined that it closely approximates mother's milk. The danger of cow's milk is avoided. It requires the addition of water only (no milk in preparation, as the basis of Nestlé's Food is the purest cow's milk, properly modified.

LEEMING MILES & CO., Canadian Agents, MONTREAL.



NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. HOME OFFICE: TORONTO, ONT. L. GOLDMAN, A.I.A., F.C.A. JOHN L. BLAIKIE, President; W. B. TAYLOR, B.A., LL.B., Secretary.

WESTERN FAIR, LONDON. September 9th to 17th, 1904. ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER EIGHTH. A New \$10,000 Dairy Building. Improvements all along the line. Exhibits unsurpassed. Attractions the best money can buy.

Kitamura's Royal Temple of Japs—ten wonderful people. The flying Ranvards and many other high class artists in a varied and unique programme. Five evenings of fireworks, concluding each evening with a magnificent representation of the "Bombardment of Port Arthur." Special excursions over all roads. For all information, prize lists, etc., address Lt.-Col. W. M. GARTSHORE, J. A. NELLES, Secretary.



THE LIFE OF POPE LEO XIII. CONTAINING A full and authentic account of the illustrious Pontiff's life and work, including a graphic description of St. Peter's and the Vatican; brilliant achievements in science and literature of His Holiness. Historic events during his successful Pontificate; political, social and doctrinal encyclicals, etc.

Binder Twine. Call and see our Binder Twine. BEST and CHEAPEST ever brought into London. The Purdom Gillespie HARDWARE COMPANY, 118 Dundas St., London, Ont.

Father Damien's Lectures. 1. The Private Interpretation of the Bible. 2. The Catholic Church the Only True Church of God. 3. Confession. 4. The Real Presence. 5. Answers to Popular Objections Against the Catholic Church.

Way of the Cross. Beautifully Illustrated. Post-paid, 35 Cents. Catholic Record Office, London, Ont.

That Dollar of Yours.

Is not very much by itself, but fifty of them, that is, less than one dollar a week, would pay for a policy of endowment insurance for \$1,000.00. Then—if you died during the next twenty years, your beneficiary would receive \$1,000.00. Or—if you lived, you would receive \$1,000.00 yourself, which, together with the accumulated surplus, would make a total return largely in excess of all premiums paid.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. HOME OFFICE: TORONTO, ONT. L. GOLDMAN, A.I.A., F.C.A. JOHN L. BLAIKIE, President; W. B. TAYLOR, B.A., LL.B., Secretary.

WESTERN FAIR, LONDON. September 9th to 17th, 1904. ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER EIGHTH. A New \$10,000 Dairy Building. Improvements all along the line. Exhibits unsurpassed. Attractions the best money can buy.

Kitamura's Royal Temple of Japs—ten wonderful people. The flying Ranvards and many other high class artists in a varied and unique programme. Five evenings of fireworks, concluding each evening with a magnificent representation of the "Bombardment of Port Arthur." Special excursions over all roads. For all information, prize lists, etc., address Lt.-Col. W. M. GARTSHORE, J. A. NELLES, Secretary.

THE LIFE OF POPE LEO XIII. CONTAINING A full and authentic account of the illustrious Pontiff's life and work, including a graphic description of St. Peter's and the Vatican; brilliant achievements in science and literature of His Holiness. Historic events during his successful Pontificate; political, social and doctrinal encyclicals, etc.

Binder Twine. Call and see our Binder Twine. BEST and CHEAPEST ever brought into London. The Purdom Gillespie HARDWARE COMPANY, 118 Dundas St., London, Ont.

Father Damien's Lectures. 1. The Private Interpretation of the Bible. 2. The Catholic Church the Only True Church of God. 3. Confession. 4. The Real Presence. 5. Answers to Popular Objections Against the Catholic Church.

Way of the Cross. Beautifully Illustrated. Post-paid, 35 Cents. Catholic Record Office, London, Ont.

That Dollar of Yours. Is not very much by itself, but fifty of them, that is, less than one dollar a week, would pay for a policy of endowment insurance for \$1,000.00.

CHATS WITH YOU.

If there is one thing that men are excessively vain about, it is their money. They squander years of their lives, they value life, so many of the moments composed? Let the respondent consider what affected thereby?

After the business Council the other night fell to talking about the use of odd moments. One young fellow couldn't find time for his duties. But an elderly member can always have time determined to do. So it looks as if there's a will there's a way. Then this short but story was told: Four years ago a young man lives in the suburbs, that he took his hour to get from the house in the morning, and a to get home again in the evening. "I am going to utility," said he. So he bought a book German and began to gauge. It was dull and first and he was tempted but at the end of a month really interested and realize how many German phrases he had mastered harder and faster, could read some simply standing and with in went on until he could tongue with fair fluency he confessed. Next time he had a few more and could dictations with delight. His success with German took up Spanish and the same temptations persistence, and the knowledge opening up of learning, he had with those languages. Then, as if Providence had planned to help him in his time and his fidelity position as foreign correspondent, he mastered principles of the sciences. Then he per and dashes, abbrev and what not, until in mind. Next he had a few more and could dictations with delight. His success with German took up Spanish and the same temptations persistence, and the knowledge opening up of learning, he had with those languages.

Just then the young man to have a certain farm plowed, and he to do the work. "I'll know you said the lad, "by the that plowing." So, every night he to paper a long list and their meaning. day, with that paper he tramped after plow, and at the end would study a sign. "When the field was all by heart.

Then he practiced his sister to read of long, he could take identity and correct. So he won his the same old school, studied by and telegraph strings to his bow. "That reminds elum," chimed in point. "While we the last year of self in electricity and moments, studying He got so into graduation he en substitute, and is n gincer, contracto what all, in his doing might well "And don't you ray," said the pre he was teaching and when the knocked him out to the bar, lung is making almost dollars now as he before?" And so the t everyone present stance of an acqui zed his spare tin In these actual o the facts that a wasted and that plished by the p atic use of odd m

Question Box. Owing to the increased cost of production, the publishers have been forced to advance the price of this book. In future it will be sold at 25 cents post paid. THE CATHOLIC RECORD, LONDON, CANADA.

Life of Our Lord. WRITTEN FOR LITTLE ONES. BY MOTHER MARY SALOME, of Bar Convent, York. With frontispiece. Price \$1.25 post free. CATHOLIC RECORD OFFICE LONDON, ONT.

A Catechism of the Vows. For the Use of Persons Consecrated to God in the Religious State. By the Rev. Peter Cotel, S. J. Price 30 Cents, post-paid. Catholic Record Office, London, Ont.

Way of the Cross. Beautifully Illustrated. Post-paid, 35 Cents. Catholic Record Office, London, Ont.