

## CONFESSIONS OF A MINISTER.

He Replies to Certain Criticisms—  
A Side Light on American Protestantism.

"Clericus" writes some "confessions of a second-rate sensitive preacher" in *The Christian Work* and *Evangelist* (New York). Without trying to hide matters he brings forward some things that give a "seemingly justification" to the criticisms and aspersions current against the ministry.

Thus: "There are types of clergymen for which many men can find very little admiration. One finds occasionally the ladylike minister who writes his sermons on tinted note-paper and ties them in pink ribbon, whose chief delight is in a five-o'clock tea, and who would faint at a political caucus. Nice little man, he is not of a numerous class! I have mingled among ministers for twenty years and only once or twice have I seen this kind."

"There is also the petty ecclesiast. He is a little cloistered world, made stuffy with tradition. He entangles himself in millinery of worship or loses himself in the mechanism of his sect. When he emerges to public view he is usually astride some ancient hobby, or riding a medieval intellectual armor. Such a figure in modern life justifies hilarity."

"I have known, too, the worldly-minded minister, who shows his unattractive qualities in various ways. He may be a denominational politician, whose main occupation is seeing the high seats in the sanctuary. He may be the mercenary, who prizes a high salary more than godliness. He may be a clerical loafer, who wastes his time in public places and carries favor with the vulgar, retelling irreverent stories. He may be the preacher who disgusts all true men by the easy grace with which he mounts the fence in every moral conflict. Whatever his characteristics his worldly-mindedness and contempt. These and other types of men in the pulpit bring discredit to the ministry at large, but I protest against the shallow judgment which condemns a whole class of men because of a few undesirable specimens."

On the whole the parson's lot is neither an unhappy nor a useless one and "Clericus" glories in the profession which he has chosen and gives this as his "main confession":

"I am glad that I am a minister, so glad that not all the freedom from vexation which any other calling may seem to offer could induce me to leave it. I cherish the ambition to keep at its work till the very end, to use my last breath in uttering its message, my last ounce of strength in its service. Not that my career has been unmarked with trial, defeat and disappointment. Of these I have had my full share."

"More than most men, I have seen during eighteen years the hardships of the minister, and looking backward and about me, there are many things I wish were different. I wish some pious people had done less to fill me with secret disgust and shame, that some deacons had not been so mean and cantankerous, that I myself had done and said fewer things that bring mortification and chagrin—and oh, who I wish I could own to-day that fine pair of high-stepping boys that have preceded before me in my dreams all these years. (I share with Henry Ward Beecher the opinion that if a minister does not like a good horse, his education has been sadly neglected.) In face of these things, however, I assert the essential joy of the minister. The very hardships themselves have been sources of satisfaction."

His joy in preaching he describes in the following enthusiastic terms: "I have heard men complain of the drudgery of preparing two sermons per week. It is an enormous task when you think of the sermons as an intellectual production. No man can hope to maintain so frequently a high order of output. There must often come occasions when, measured by literary and oratorical standards, he falls far below his best. It is not given him, as it is the poet, to choose to speak only when he is inspired. He must talk every week at stated times, and from the outside it seems intolerably tedious. But there is another viewpoint. The prime element in preaching is not intellectual achievement. A congregation is not assembled from Sabbath to Sabbath to hear a man read an essay or make an oratorical effort. If the preacher is wise he will labor to perfect himself in the art of oratory and master the rules of literary composition. 'If a man has anything to tell,' says Lowell, 'the world can not be expected to listen until he has perfected himself in the best way of telling it.'"

"The minister can not, of all men, afford to gain the reputation of intellectual slovenliness. Still, a man may be able to dazzle by brilliance and magnetize by oratory two congregations every Sunday and not be preaching. He is preaching only when he is telling in public what God has told him in secret. Out of his own experience he seeks to interpret the message of the Father to wayward men and women, and if he be a true man, that is never a tedious task. Therefore he will repeat himself, he will produce not always new treasures, the old will be brought forth again and again, but he is untroubled, for he is not straining for artistic effect. He is a messenger with a supreme message and he is humbly glad to utter it in any form."

## Some Recent Converts.

The Rev. Lewis Thomas Wattson, B.D., son of the late Rev. Joseph Wattson; graduate of the General Theological Seminary, New York and St. Stephen's, Annapolis, founder and superior of the Society of the Atonement and editor of the *Lamp*, and one time rector of Holy Cross Church, Kingston, N.Y., and head of the Associate Mission Clergy, Omaha.

The Rev. Henry Rufus Sargent, B.D., of the Holy Cross Fathers, graduate of Harvard, and the General Theological Seminary, N.Y., founder of the Oblates of Mt. Calvary.

Brother Antony, of the Society of the Atonement, a Jew.

Mother Lurana, Mary Francis White S.A., superior of the Sisters of the Atonement, editress of *Rose Leaves*, and her community.

The Rev. James Raker, of the diocese of Ford du Lac; graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and the General Theological Seminary, New York, and member of the Companions of the Holy Savior.

The Rev. E. Howard, a Protestant minister in charge of a congregation in the Philippines, who with his flock was lately received.

The Hon. Boyd Winchester, Louisville, Ky.

Hon. John C. Gibbons, one of the pioneers of Texas. Late Mayor of Paris, Texas, and descendant of Sir William Gibbons, one of the first settlers of Virginia.

Ho Wing Lee, a nephew of the Chinese Minister, Dr. Wu Ting-Fang, Mrs. Dickerson, of Kansas City, wife of Dr. Dickerson, and aunt of Vice-President Sherman.

Mrs. Gertrude H. Lanman, Norwich, Conn., and New York, philanthropist; widow of the late William Camp Lanman (nephew of Commodore Lanman, U.S.N.), and sister-in-law of Charles R. Lanman, professor of Sanskrit in Harvard; late a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Norwich.

The late Frank H. Snow, assistant managing editor of the *Detroit Journal*, son of Judge Snow, Winona, Minn.

The Baroness de Charette, of Paris born Miss Susan Henning, New York. It is interesting to recall that the mother of the Baron de Charette is also a convert, and a niece of the late P. E. Bishop Leonidas Polk, general in the Confederate army.

Miss Mary Kloman, in religion Sister Marie Oblata, of the congregation of Notre Dame de Sion, Paris, formerly an Episcopalian.

James Montgomery, attorney-at-law, Elizabethtown, Ky.

The Lady Gifford, of Sussex, England.

English papers announce the coming reception into the Church of the Countess of Granard, wife of the Master of the Horse to King Edward. She was formerly Miss Beatrice Mills, of New York.

At the Catholic Mission for the Chinese, Park street, New York, five young Chinese were recently baptized, following a year's probation.

The German papers announce the reconciliation to the Church of the Rev. Julius Brenk, appointed by the state authorities as pastor of Kosten during the days of the Kulturkampf.

Thirty-eight converts in one year is the record for the little country parish of Sainte Marie, Ill.

Eleven adult converts received confirmation at St. Peter's Church, Chillicothe, O., last November.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. McQuaid has resumed the Sunday School for Catholic Chinese which he opened some time ago in St. James' parish, Boston. There are twenty-five pupils in the class. Since it was opened fifty-six converts have been made among the Chinese.

The Bishop of Sacramento lately confirmed fifty converts at Eureka, Cal.

In our list of converts published from time to time we give only those names which have come under our personal observation; but how many hundreds, nay thousands of persons are every year received into the Church whose names never reach the columns of the newspapers.

On the smallest missions there are anxious and earnest souls, who are willing to embrace the truth when convinced of it. They go to Mass, and pay attention to what is said there. They study and investigate what they have seen. They have, perhaps, never spoken to a priest and scarcely know how to break the subject when they come to him for instruction. In becoming Catholics they have no sinister motive, and so far as the world is concerned, have nothing to gain. They have found their way quietly to the very door of the Church and do not wish to have anything said about their change of heart. Such men and women make excellent converts and accomplish much good by their exemplary lives.—Catholic Universe.

The letter quoted below tells how these symptoms were overcome and kidney disease cured by Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. Because of their direct and combined action on both liver and bowels these pills cure the most complicated cases.

Capt. W. Smith, a veteran of the Crimean war, living at Revelstoke, B.C., writes: "I can testify that for years I was a sufferer from chronic kidney disease, which was the verdict after the doctor examined me and analyzed my urine. As his medicine did me no good I bought a box of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills and was benefited so much that I kept on taking them until I can say doctor certifies."

that I am perfectly cured, which the one pill a dose, 25 cents a box. At all dealers or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Toronto.

Dr. A. W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills

Let urine stand for twenty-four hours and if at the end of that time there are deposits of a brick dust variety, or if the water becomes smoky and cloudy, you may be sure the kidneys are deranged.

Another very marked symptom of kidney disease is pain in the small of the back.

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## What Ireland Owe to German Philologists for its Revival.

When by stress of persecution and neglect the Gaelic tongue was almost in the throes of dissolution, German philologists like Windisch, Zimmer, Zeuss and Kuno Meyer saved the language from death and gave back to Ireland her native tongue, never again, please God, to reach such a low state of exhaustion. If anyone wants to see the real feeling between Germans and Irish, let them examine the marriage registers of the western states, where the fraternal tie is clinched in the holy bonds of matrimony. There in every Catholic parish you will find specimens of the Celto-Teutonic races. Attend the church fairs and the local entertainments, and on every program you will find Irish and German young ladies working together for some good object. In another century, especially among the Catholics, the Germans and the Irish will become as much intermarried as the Normans and the Irish in the old land. There are no two races in America to-day who are nearer to becoming one people than the Irish and the Germans. God bless the work, say we.

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## Found Every Sunday in Their Churches.

For several weeks the Sun (New York) has been publishing on its editorial page letters from despairing Protestants who see in the frankly admitted disintegration of their several sects the decline of Christianity. Now and again a more hopeful believer is heard from, but the general tone of the correspondence is pessimistic, with an occasional "it's all true, and I'm glad of it" from an agnostic lamp. A New Jersey priest, Rev. George F. Brown, of Rahway, directs the attention of the correspondents to the fact that there is a considerable body of Christians of whose existence the several parties to the discussion seem to be ignorant. In a letter to the Sun, Father Brown says:

"With due regard for the point of view expressed by the ministers, ex-ministers and others in their recent letters to the Sun on the decline of Christianity, I have looked in vain for even a passing comment on the facts that there are no empty seats in any of the numerous Catholic churches and that the Catholic Church in America is doubling her membership each score of years. According to the last census report she has increased 93.5 per cent."

"That the tide of Catholic immigration in that period has been large and that she includes baptized infants in reckoning her members by no means explains this marvelous growth. It would be more honest to confess that she cares for the immigrant classes and that race suicide is rare in the Church when explaining the portion of her growth due to these two causes."

"Regarding attendance at church it is a marvel to non-Catholics every where the crowds that pour in and out of the Catholic churches on Sundays and holy days, even at what seems to them an unearthly hour of the morning. Rain or shine, summer or winter, it is the same."

"Why do they come? What brings them? It is not the priest, the sacristan, the music, the ceremonies, the lights or the flowers. It is the fact of the Mass. It is the willing obedience that Catholics render the precept of the Church obliging them to hear Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation."

"Upon those two points precisely Catholics and all others are poles apart—authority and the Mass. The former they think a usurpation, and the latter an abomination."

"Yet here is the answer to the question: 'How do you fill your churches?' Catholics acknowledge the authority of their church in matters of faith and morals; they believe the Mass to be the sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ."

"Of course, there are Catholics and Catholics. There are good, bad and indifferent Catholics. Even so, Christ has taught by His own word example our duty to sinners. Witness the beautiful parables of the lost sheep and the prodigal son. But of the rank and file of Catholics and their fidelity to their Church we are justly proud."

"At all events, they are found every Sunday in their churches. The Mass is the magnet that draws them. They come to worship God, not to be entertained."

Map of Canada in Stained Glass.

An excellent specimen of the stained glassworkers' handicraft is afforded by a novel map that has been prepared for the west-end office of the Grand Trunk Railway System on Cockspur street, London, S.W. On a solid sheet of glass, 11-1/4 inches thick, measuring 12 feet in length and 6 feet broad, a faithful reproduction of the map of the Dominion of Canada has been executed. The names of places in great numbers, the rivers, the lakes and the mountains are clearly shown, while the distinctive colors for the various Provinces comprising the Dominion, and adjacent territories of the United States have been burned in to ensure fixity. Stretching across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific may be easily followed the route of Canada's all-rail route, the Grand Trunk Pacific, by means of which millions of square miles of new grain-producing territory are being opened up to the settler. The work not only affords a graphic idea of the vastness of the great Dominion, but also gives an impressive idea of this 3600 miles of new road. The preparation of the map was a delicate task, since it is the largest piece of stained glass work that has ever been attempted. It required the combined services of eight expert operators continuously for five months, and it is one of the most costly reproductions of a map that has ever been undertaken. In its manufacture the great difficulty was to obtain a result which would be quite legible in daylight, and which would yet be sufficiently transparent to allow of illumination by means of twenty-four 25-candle power lamps at night. The delicate blending of the various tints, the definition of the finest hair-like lines, and the distinctness of the names renders it a work of artistic and educational value. Owing to its fragile character and large size, combined with its great weight of one ton three hundredweight, its transport from Birmingham, where it was manufactured, to London, had to be carried out by special means.—"Canada," London, Dec. 4, 1909.

Training Modern Mechanics.

Just as Canada is a great melting pot for the making of men, taking in the raw aliens, immigrants and moulding them into Canadian citizens, so have the big railway shops become training schools for boys. The boy just out of school, who becomes an apprentice in a railway shop, is, within a very short time, turned out an intelligent useful citizen, capable of earning good wages in any country.

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Never Neglect a Cough or Cold, it can have but one result. It leaves the throat or lungs, or both, affected.

\*\*\*\*\* Mrs. A. E. Brown, Ottawa, Ont., writes: "I have had a very bad cough every winter for a number of years which I was afraid would turn into consumption. I tried a great many remedies but only received temporary relief until I got a bottle of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup and after taking two bottles my cough was cured. I am never without a bottle of Norway Pine Syrup."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is the medicine you need. It strikes at the foundation of all throat and lung complaints, relieving or curing all Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, Croup, Sore Throat, etc., and preventing Pneumonia and Consumption.

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\*\*\*\*\* Mr. J. B. Rush, Orangeville, Ont., writes: "I had been troubled with Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint and tried many different remedies but obtained little or no benefit. A friend advised me to give your Laxa-Liver Pills a trial, but I told him I was tired paying out money for things giving me no benefit. He said, 'If they don't help, or cure you, I will stand the price.' So seeing his faith in the Pills, I bought two vials, and I was not deceived, for they were the best I ever used. They gave relief which had had a more lasting effect than any medicine I have ever used, and the beauty about them is, they are small and easy to take. I believe them to be the best medicine for Liver Trouble there is to be found."

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The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.