

any who should so remain the Church in that parish, city, or diocese might truly say, with Her Lord; "now they have no excuse for their sin." And if "Popery" be all that Protestants believe it to be, why has it continued to exist, after nearly four centuries, in countries enjoying "the light of the pure Gospel," unless it be, as they must themselves admit, that their lives have not been in accordance with the faith they profess to hold.

But the excuse, so far as Protestants and unbelievers are concerned, does unfortunately exist everywhere, in the lives of nominal Catholics, and never, probably, to so great an extent as at the present day, save and except during the period immediately preceding the so-called Reformation. For that spiritual revolt, with all its eternal and incalculable consequences, the Church, in a very real sense, was, and remains, responsible; in and by the lives of her clergy, her laity, and even of her very Popes. For the continued existence of Protestantism, as for the socialism and anarchism which are the logical outcome of the first rejection of her Divine authority in spirituals, the Church, with the exceptions already indicated, must, once more, be held accountable. Not, thank God! in the measure and degree of the sixteenth century, since Protestantism is now an inherited condition rather than a revolt, but, none the less, by reason of every "lax Catholic" who, forgetful of his calling, his duties, and his privileges, has become an enemy of the cross of Christ.

If then the Church, in this sense, and in this way, is responsible for the existence of Protestantism, what is to be our attitude under the stress of modern conditions towards those who, through no fault, and by no conscious desire of their own, are outside her fold, yet actually, by virtue of being baptized Christians, belong to her care and to her jurisdiction? Hitherto, it has been to regard them as enemies, as formal heretics to be converted, or else avoided in spirituals; and we have spent our energies in controversies concerning matters which, however important in themselves, are as