

## The Life and Catholic Journalism

OF THE LATE

## JAMES A. McMASTER,

Editor of the New York Freeman's Journal and  
Catholic Register.

Edited by VERY REV. MARK S. GROSS.

For the Carmelite Review.

## CHAPTER V.

CONTINUED.



**I**T must then be evident to every true lover of the Republic, that the State, were it at liberty to favor any particular portion of the community, should favor its conservative element—the Catholics—instead of exacting of Catholics millions of dollars, to continue, by godless education, the impious work for the increase of the number of enemies of the Republic: it should rather supply Catholics with the means to bring up their children in the spirit of true freedom—in the spirit of devotedness to republican institutions. But as the State is neither Catholic nor Protestant, it should at least act justly and impartially; it should not favor its own enemies; it should not make a lie or a farce of our glorious Constitution: it should no longer play the usurper and the robber; it should no longer continue digging its own grave; it should not tax Catholics any longer to support infidel institutions—nurseries of all kinds of crimes—and thus continue to violate most atrociously the very letter and spirit of the Constitution, and to commit a direct outrage on the most sacred convictions of Catholics.

It is the well-instructed practical Catholic that alone is capable of appreciating and realizing true freedom. Ever foremost to concede the rights of God, ever careful not to trench on the rights of his fellow-creatures, he is, for all this (and precisely because of this) well aware of his own rights and dignity as a man, as a citizen and as a baptized Christian—a regenerated son of God—and, knowing his rights and dignity, he dares maintain them! He protests against godless education as a volcano that is destined to bury law and authority, and bring about universal anarchy and prepare and establish the reign of Antichrist. We must, then, have separate schools to educate our rising generation in a religious atmosphere, and imbue them with the principles of Christianity. All those who oppose any longer truly Christian education, in any manner whatsoever, are traitors to the Republic, and the worst enemies of the country, and from henceforth the vengeance of God will not be slow to overtake them. On the contrary, he who will be

first and foremost in promoting this noblest of objects, may truly be called the *savior* of the Republic,—the *father of his country*; he will be as great, nay, even greater, than Washington himself. Upon him the blessings of heaven will descend in superabundance, and his name will be blessed from generation to generation." †

THE REV. JOHN EDWARDS, OF THE CHURCH  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,  
N. Y., AND McMASTER.

In the eyes of our journalist, none of the clergy displayed so divinely in their pastoral charge the character and mission of the Good Shepherd, as the priests who gathered their children into the Catholic parochial school. It is the common sense method of saying and increasing the flock by caring for its lambs.

Among others of the estimable clergy (hard-working and self-sacrificing) of New York City, the Rev. John Edwards, in particular, for his grand and admirable schools, received the merited commendation of the *Freeman's Journal*.

The schools of the Immaculate Conception Church of 14th street are pre-eminently among the progressive Catholic works, incalculably far-reaching, of the Archdiocese of New York. During a pastorate of twenty-five years, the Rev. John Edwards must have graduated from his schools ten thousand adults, men and women now, who form the best element of Catholic society, and the sturdiest people of the great metropolis of New York. That is the way to build up American Catholicity.

What a sight to behold a thousand boys and a thousand girls, file in to assist at daily Mass at Father Edwards' church,—and thence into the adjoining parochial school buildings. And this stream of Catholic youth from the altar to the Catholic school has flowed on, and out into society for a quarter of a century! What a flood of spiritual life,—to purify society.

Such grand parochial schools as Father Edwards' are also so many nurseries of blossoming, priestly and religious vocations. We cannot expect the godless public schools but to nip vocations in the bud.

To secure a thoroughbred Catholic generation of people, and to provide for an American, Catholic priesthood, the parochial schools are absolutely essential. Mixed marriages begin the mischief for

† Father Miller, C. S. S. R.