

In the course of his communication to the press he said: I am not disposed, nor probably qualified, to adventure within the lists of controversy. By the accident of birth, a Catholic, I find my spiritual moorings to that faith *trebly-linked* by the convictions of manhood. I interpose not between any one's opinions as to his proper way towards the other world. The editor whom I now address talks of coercing conscience. While a boy, at a distance of 3000 miles from my home, driven thither by the penal laws of which he so pathetically "*hinc illae lacrymae*", speaks—immured within the enclosures of a monastery—I was taught as a tenet of my faith, in the words of St. Cyprian of the 2nd century: "*non est religionis-religionem cogere*"—not to coerce conscience. Yet we are to suffer under imputations of principles utterly at variance with the same.

Again: Is "bear not false witness against thy neighbor," among the commandments of those who profess vital christianity, or not? For such appears in the catechism of our Catholic children. If they practice it not—they sin. Every congregation is allowed to institute its useful society for charitable purposes, for attending upon the sick, distribution of relief and other eleemosynary ends. Yet an institution in the Catholic church, almost solely devoted to the uses of itinerant charity, unconnected with any conventual system of education, is denounced, because it is a matter of alarm in the mind of the Christian editor, lest the broth which may moisten the lip of our dying pauper should bear the flavor of holy water.

Again: At this season of Advent when the minds of all sincere believers in the doctrines of our Saviour are, or ought to be, occupied by the sacred reminiscences of His nativity, I feel more sensibly the edge of the weapon aimed at us. The Roman Catholics of the province have been an unobtrusive class; they have not been as mendicants for private or public alms; they have erected their own edifice of worship at the cost of thousands, without the solicitation or receipt of one