

# A Question Of Faith.

By An Occasional Contributor.

It seems almost inevitable, that whenever one of our Catholic priests expounds a dogma of our Faith for a congregation, and that his sermon is reproduced in the press, some one or other, speaking on behalf of a sect, or of Protestantism in general, will rise up to repeat, over and over, the thousand times refuted arguments that are brought against the Church. It may be only a coincidence, but it so happens that while one of our priests, in this city, preached, in the course of his regular Lenten sermons, upon one of the fundamental doctrines of the Church, a clergyman of a certain denomination came out with a rehash of all the staple arguments of the non-Catholic world. As I am aware that it is not customary for our priests to descend into the controversial arena, nor to pay attention to every comment that is made on their sermons, I thought well, on my own humble account, to draw attention to one of those recent outbursts of Protestant zeal. Not being a theologian I can only explain matters from my personal standpoint, and having no authority to expound the doctrines of the Church the most I can do is to give the reasons which I hold for the Faith—that I profess.

The remarks to which I have special reference were made last Sunday, in this city, by Rev. Dr. Hackett. Amongst other things he said:—

"The infallibility of the Roman Pontiff is no unimportant or trivial dogma of the Roman Catholic Church, but the very foundation of all doctrine, and I have conclusively shown that it is contrary to reason, contrary to Scripture, and contrary to the Church and history."

I regret exceedingly that I cannot see how this reverend gentleman has "conclusively shown" anything of the kind. It is quite possible that he thinks that because he is satisfied with his own demonstration that others must be the same. Now I am quite ready to show that infallibility, as we understand it, and as it is taught by the Church, is in strict accordance with reason, with Scripture and with history. It is a long story; something that no man can dispose of in one article, or in one sermon, or even in one book. But it is susceptible of condensation, if only those who think with Dr. Hackett could be brought to accept the logical conclusions that flow from axiomatic premises. Before, however, touching upon this point, I wish to quote another passage from that rev. gentleman's sermon. He said:—

"Yet, notwithstanding this, one branch of the Church was continually adding new doctrines, and demanding their acceptance under pain of damnation. Thus, after the Council of Trent, twelve new dogmas were added to the Nicene Creed in 1564, and in the last century two more dogmas were declared—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1854, and Papal Infallibility in 1870."

Thus, the question of the definition of Infallibility comes before that of the consideration of the dogma defined. So we will have to begin with this first error on his part. I call it an error, although it may not be a willful one. I take it for granted that if Rev. Mr. Hackett were not laboring under an absolute misconception of the question he would be only too glad to accept the truth in regard to this as well as any other matter.

The foregoing paragraph, just quoted, contains two mistakes. Firstly, it is not true that "one branch of the Church" has been, as he calls it adding new doctrines; and, secondly, it is not true that prior to 1854 and 1870 the two dogmas, of the Immaculate Conception and the Infallibility of the Pope, had no existence.

To begin, reference is made to the Catholic Church, or to be more precise, for the sake of non-Catholics, we will say the Roman Catholic Church. Now, while not admitting, that the Catholic Church has been constantly adding new doctrines to the teachings of Christ, but fully intending to prove the contrary, I desire to say that the Catholic Church is not "a branch" of any Church, nor is any Church a branch of her. In the variety of sects, or churches that go to make up what is known as Protestantism there may be scores of branches; but the Catholic Church has stood alone since the days of Christ. She is not a branch of the Church of Christ, much less is any outside Church a branch of her organization. She is simple the Church

which can admit of no branches, therefore no divisions, no parts, no conflicting elements. Either Christ did or He did not establish a Church to perpetuate His doctrines. If He did, that Church must be one in doctrine—for truth is one, and God is Truth, and Christ is God, and unity is the essential note of whatever He left on earth to carry on His work. Therefore, since the allusion made regards the Catholic Church, it is wrong; because she is not a branch. She is just the Church of Christ; nothing more, nothing less.

But, speaking of that Church, the rev. gentleman tells us that she has been adding on new doctrines. Not so. She has never changed one iota in nineteen hundred years. What she teaches to-day, she taught from the very beginning. The doctrines held in the Vatican are identical with those held in the catacombs.

Take, then, the Infallibility of the Pope,—for the same applies to all other defined dogmas, no matter when promulgated—and we find that the Church always, in accordance with reason, Scripture and history, considered it as a "sine qua non" of her teaching mission. But there had been no necessity heretofore of any special definition or promulgation of that dogma. When, the time came, that conditions in the religious world demanded the positive declaration by the infallible Church of that special dogma, the Council of the Church took it up, and the decision of that Council ordained that the Pope, the visible Head of the Church, the Vicar of Christ on earth should proclaim it to be—what it always had been—a belief, a matter of faith, a dogma. From that moment the "liberty" that was tolerated before gave place to the positive acceptance of the teaching. Thus we see that the very promulgation of the dogma argues its prior existence. That which did not exist could not be defined, nor promulgated. But the Church added nothing new to her doctrines. She did not invent Infallibility. In a word: IT WAS NOT THE PROMULGATION OF IT THAT GAVE RISE TO THE DOGMA, BUT IT WAS THE EXISTING DOGMA THAT GAVE RISE TO THE PROMULGATION. Consequently Rev. Dr. Hackett is absolutely wrong when he says that the Catholic Church ever added a new doctrine to her theology. She merely declared, in a formal manner, the existence of a doctrine. She changed nothing, took nothing from, added nothing to her code of faith. And there are scores upon scores of doctrines that have never been defined, never promulgated, never pronounced upon "ex-Cathedra" Why? Because circumstances have never yet rendered it necessary to do so. They are as firmly believed as is the Infallibility; no one dreams of questioning, or of doubting any one of them. But should ever the occasion arise, when the world would cast a serious doubt upon any one of such teachings, then the Church may consider the matter and proclaim such doctrine to be a dogma of faith—leaving no further latitude in regard to it.

Having thus shown the Rev. Doctor that he is totally in error in regard to the Church and the promulgation of dogmas, if I am accorded space, in your next issue, I will undertake to prove that he has erred three times over when he declared that the dogma of the Infallibility is contrary to reason, to the Scripture, and to history. But, for the present it would occupy too much space to enter into the details of this question, besides I am convinced that I have given the Rev. Doctor material enough for serious study, in the foregoing brief comments.

## ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY.

The two sides of the face are not in accord one with the other. The left side is nearly always the fuller and better formed.

Two portions of the body continue to increase in size; the one through life, the crystalline lens of the eye; the other during the later decades of life, the ear. The right ear is generally higher than the left, and the smallest interval of sound can be better distinguished with one ear than with both.

The tongue of the woman is smaller than that of the man.

Only one person in fifteen has perfect eyes, the larger percentage of defectiveness prevailing among fair-haired people.

The nails of the fingers never grow with the same degree of rapidity. The nail of the middle finger grows fastest; that of the thumb slowest.

The average height of an American or Englishman is five feet six inches; the average weight is 140 pounds. The weight is greatest when a man is about forty years of age.

The bones of an average human male skeleton weigh 20 pounds; those of a female are about 6 pounds lighter.

# France and The Vatican.

As we have assured our readers from the beginning, the suppression of the religious congregations in France is but a step to the "nationalization," which is but another name for the enslavement of the Church in that country and its separation from the Holy See, says the "Messenger Monthly Magazine." In view of the manifest purpose of the present Combes administration to devise some plausible pretext for a breach of the Concordat, we deem it important to reprint from the London "Tablet," the following leader which the editor announces as "an authoritative article" from Rome:

"NOBIS NOMINAVIT."—"The present unreasonable attitude of the French Government on the question of the nomination of bishops recalls to memory an incident, not so well known perhaps, which shows the real intention of the Government in its latest conflict with the Holy See. M. Gambetta desired to see his intimate friend, Abbe Puyol, Almoner of Ste. Barbe, promoted to a bishopric, and requested M. Flourens, the Minister of Public Worship at the time, to further his intention. M. Flourens assented willingly, called the Abbe, and made to him the following extraordinary proposition: 'The Government has decided to nominate you to the See of —. It has at the same time resolved that this nomination shall be made without seeking the approval of Rome. In fact, all bishops in future shall be nominated in this way. Consequently, we require of you an understanding that you will never give in your resignation whatever may happen, even if the Pope refuses canonical institution; and we, on our part, pledge ourselves not to go back for any reason whatsoever.' The Abbe was not prepared for this infamous proposal. 'What you suggest to me,' he said, 'is an act of simony, for I should obtain an episcopal see under illicit conditions. This act of simony would, moreover, be open rebellion against the Head of the Church; I should be withdrawing myself from communion with the Church, and should be absolutely powerless, as an ecclesiastic, to render to the State the services it expects of me. I have no alternative but to refuse.' The Abbe complained bitterly to his friend Gambetta of the insulting treatment he had received. Gambetta replied: 'I approve entirely of your conduct; it was far from my thoughts to make you an instrument of a vexatious policy which I condemn. War against the authority of the Church is not in my programme. I will write to M. Flourens to say how pained I am at what has taken place, and to beg him to give up the idea of this unreasonable pressure, which may lead to a useless struggle.' Abbe Puyol, who is still living, was afterwards rector of the Church of San Luigi dei Francesi at Rome, and subsequently Superior of the Grand Seminaire at Rouen.

"The Combes Ministry has gone a step further than M. Flourens, and has actually published three names for the vacant bishoprics of Bayonne, Coutances and St. Jean de Maurienne without any previous understanding with the Holy See. At the same time it has sent a protest to the Vatican against the formula usually employed in the Papal Briefs of appointment. Whereas the briefs run: 'Te, quem dilectus filius Praeses Guberni Galliae Republicae Nobis ad hoc per suas litteras nominavit,' the Government want the word 'Nobis' expunged, so that the briefs may read thus: 'Thee, whom Our beloved son, the President of the Government of the French Republic, has nominated for this by his letters,' instead of 'has nominated to Us for this.' The Government refused to register the briefs of appointment for the dioceses of Annecy and Carcassonne last year because they contained the word 'Nobis.' The aim is obvious; what the Government wants is to appoint absolutely to episcopal sees, leaving to the Pope only the canonical institution of their candidate. Napoleon I, as First Consul, in 1802, when negotiating with Consalvi the procedure in the appointment of bishops, tried to obtain some formula that expressed definitive election by the Government, but in spite of the researches made at his behest, no precedent for it could be found, and Consalvi absolutely refused to admit the claim. The Concordat of 1802 between Pius VII and the First Consul, therefore, stated: 'His Holiness will confer canonical institution according to the forms established for France before the change of government.' The change of government

here referred to was the National Assembly, which, in the year 1790, decreed the civil constitution of the clergy. The established forms prevailing before that time were those agreed upon between Leo X. and Francis I. in the Concordat of 1516, which was approved in the Lateran Council on the 19th of December, 1516, and registered by the French Government on the 22nd March, 1518. Its provisions were as follows: 'The King nominates to the Pope a Doctor in Theology or Law, who is at least twenty-seven years of age, and has the necessary qualifications for the episcopal office. This nomination has to be made within six months after the See has fallen vacant. If the candidate put forward does not answer the required conditions, the King may propose another within the three following months. If this second nomination fails on account of some canonical defect in the candidate, the Pope himself will make the appointment without listening to any further recommendation.'

"As the King nominated to the Pope, so did Napoleon I. nominate his candidates to the Pope, and the formula constantly employed in the Papal brief to express the share of the civil power in the appointment was—"nominavit Nobis." The Vatican Archivist, Mgr. Wenzel, has looked up the old briefs of the nineteenth century, and of the 240 or 250 he has inspected, every one contains the same formula—with three exceptions. By a clerical error the brief by which Mgr. Legain was appointed to the See of Montauban, May 24, 1871, contained the words 'presentavit Nobis.' Two other briefs issued about the same time were worded in the same way. The Government of Thiers remonstrated with Cardinal Antonelli on the use of a new form, and when it had been ascertained that the change was due to a mistake of the Minutante, the old formula was resumed. Thiers then wrote to the Cardinal Secretary of State to express his satisfaction. This letter has been found lately and a copy of it dispatched to the French Government, though no answer has as yet been received. It is of great importance as showing that the French authorities had this very question of the formula under definite consideration in such recent times and approved of the 'nominavit Nobis.' In the interests of peace the Holy See has yielded a good deal to the demands and importunities of France, but it is quite resolved not to yield upon this point."

## A COMMON MISTAKE.

### Many People Weaken Their System by Taking Purgative Medicines.

People who use a purgative medicine in the spring make a serious mistake. Most people do need a medicine at this season, but it is a tonic that is required to give health vigor and vim. Purgatives irritate and weaken—a tonic medicine invigorates and strengthens. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are absolutely the best tonic medicine in the world. These pills do not gallop through the bowels—they are gently absorbed into the system, filling the veins with the pure, rich, red blood that carries healing, health and strength to every part of the body. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure skin eruptions, indigestion, headaches, nervousness, neuralgia, backache, rheumatism, continued weariness and all other blood troubles. They are just the tonic you need for this spring. Mr. A. Compeau, Alexandria, Ont., says:—"I received great benefit from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and take pleasure in recommending them to all who suffer from troubles arising out of a poor condition of the blood. I think there is no better tonic medicine."

If you need a medicine this spring give these pills a trial—they will not disappoint you. Do not be persuaded to take a substitute or any of the "just as good" medicines which some dealers, who care only for profit, offer their customers. See that the full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, is on the wrapper around every box. If in doubt send direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., and the pills will be sent by mail, post paid, at 50c per box or six boxes for \$2.50.

## A New Star.

Cambridge, Mass., March 28. — A message has been received of the Harvard observatory from Professor Kreutz, of Kiel, Germany, announcing the discovery by Professor Turner, of Oxford, of a new star.

# About Icebergs.

The fierce and persistent gales of a blustering winter have loosened the icebergs from the glaciers of Labrador several months earlier than usual and they threaten to make navigation dangerous in the steamship lane off the Newfoundland Banks. They are coming down in fantastic fleets, under Admiral Jack Frost, jamming the Straits of Belle Isle, and, on the bosom of the frigid Arctic current, are slowly drifting into the Gulf Stream.

Last year they didn't get into the course of the liners until the latter part of June. Hundreds of them, big and little, spectacular and unpicturesque, are now heading southeast, with the polar current, off the east coast of Newfoundland.

Some of the giant ones strand on the shallows of the ocean. Many reach the track of the liners, and a few of the solidest get below it, even down to latitude 40 degrees, before they are honeycombed by the warm current of the Gulf Stream and made contributors to the general dampness of the Atlantic.

When a big berg is bored through and through at the base it sometimes turns turtle. It has been the privilege of passengers of only a few steamships to see a top-heavy monster reverse itself off the Banks with a mighty crashing and splashing. A pinnacle berg 200 feet high has been observed to roll over and convert itself into a flat-topped, sugar-loaf of ice showing not more than 50 feet above the surface of the sea.

The first of the frosty apparitions to drift into the vicinity of the steamship lane this season was sighted by the oil carrier Burgomeister Petersen on March 5. It was only 50 feet tall and 200 feet long, but it was big enough to indicate to the Hydrographic office that the Labrador Ice Trust had decided to move its colossal products early in the spring. Even in the latter part of February the thoughtful, observant hydrographers had written: "Bergrs may be expected early in March."

The oil tanks which ply light coming west and run in high latitudes are naturally the first observers of bergs. Sometimes, when the sea is veiled in fog, the tanks discover the bergs by smashing into them.

Liners from Norwegian ports and from Scotland, which also take a high course, are, next to the tanks, the earliest sighters of bergs. The Ethiopia of the Anchor Line, here from Glasgow, passed twenty-five on March 6, the largest being 150 feet high and 300 feet long. Five days later the French liner La Lorraine, in from Havre, passed south of a mountain of ice 1,500 feet long and 150 feet high only a few miles north of the steamship lane.

The next day, March 12, the Scandinavian-American liner Norge, from Copenhagen, passed two immense bergs, one with steeples 305 feet in the air. The Red Star liner Noordland treated her passengers to the spectacle of eleven bergs, some more than 200 feet high, all in sight at one time. Northward, the officers on the bridge observed, about fifteen miles away, the glittering towers of several mammoth bergs.

So far, all the ice has been sighted in clear weather, and so could be readily cleared by navigators. The menace will come with fog, which, the latest Hydrographic bulletin says, "will occur with steadily increasing frequency as the month advances."

Lookouts are doubled in crow's nest and at forecastle head when the mist curtain descends in the iceberg region. Liners speak each other and exchange information about the location of bergs. If they are unusually far south, or directly in the prescribed lanes of travel, the cautious commander sacrifices a few hours by changing his course to the southward to avoid danger. Years ago, before ships spoke each other by wireless, the danger was greater than it is now, when ice reports may be sent from the scene of danger 100 miles or more to ships approaching it.

Every commander of an ocean-cropper leaving any port of the United States takes with him the latest Hydrographic bulletin, which contains all the reports of ice sighted by steamships arriving at European or American ports. The Hydrographic office supplies all steamships with blanks headed "Ice Reports," which are filled out by the ship's officers. These reports assist the navigator materially in steering clear of ice in the fog region.

The presence of ice in the neighborhood of steamships is indicated by a drop in the temperature of air and water. Thus, when the ship's officers cannot see, they can feel that a berg is near.

There is always a large number of passengers with snapshot cameras aboard the liners, anxious to capture a picture of a berg. Obliging skippers sometimes sail out of their course within a few miles of the frigid spectres to give the snapshot-takers a chance at them. Professional photographers make money by selling their pictures to other passengers as memorials of the voyage.

It is said that the biggest north polar iceberg ever measured accurately was 418 feet high. It came from a Greenland glacier. Captains in the North Atlantic trade have reported higher bergs than this, but they usually have not used the sextant to measure them.

The very tallest berg ever observed, if Capt. Larrabee of the Yankee ship San Juan, may be believed, was discovered by him on Sept. 8, 1893, about 380 miles off the Falkland Islands. The clipper ran plump into the great berg, crushing in her port bow and carrying away all head gear and her foremast. Capt. Larrabee and his mate, who said they were familiar with the science of guessing heights at sea, declared that the berg was really an ice mountain 1,500 feet high, measuring from the water line, and about five miles long.

As about seven-eighths of the mass of an iceberg is under water, this south polar colossus may have been a mile or so deep. There is plenty of sea, perpendicularly considered, where the San Juan had her misadventure to float a mighty deep berg.

The icebergs with which liners have been in collision have not been notably lofty. The Inman steamship City of Berlin, now the United States transport Meade, had a close call by collision with a berg in a fog off the Banks on May 12, 1885.

She hit the mass of ice while going at reduced speed, bow on. Her figurehead was shattered, her bowsprit carried away and her bow plates stove above the water line. About 100 tons of ice tumbled aboard her. The shock of the impact and the thunder of the ice on the deck brought the passengers on deck. The ship backed off and proceeded. Nobody was hurt.

The Saale of the North German Lloyd line, while ploughing through a moonlit sea in June, 1889, bound from Southampton to this port, found a berg lurking in a fog bank. It was only 70 feet high, but it was mighty solid. Clever seamanship alone saved the Saale from probable shipwreck.

The officer in charge of the bridge was warned of the impending danger by the lookouts in the crow's nest. He put his helm over in a jiffy and the Saale crunched over the submerged foot of the berg, upsetting some of the passengers. She was on and off again in a moment, but she lurched so far to starboard that she shifted coal and cargo and came in with a list.

Probably the most startling experience with an iceberg was that of the Hamburg-American liner Normannia, now the French liner L'Aquitaine, off the Banks on May 31, 1890. The liner was making her maiden trip from Hamburg. She was saved from destruction by the swift manipulation of her twin screws.

She had passed through a panorama of bergs. After counting twenty-two the skipper came into a long stretch of iceless sea and decided that he would go ahead at full speed hoping to smash all maiden records. He did until the mantle of mist fell again, when he slowed down to three-quarters speed.

Two lookouts on the forecastle head saw an Arctic battlement rise out of the fog before them, dead ahead. They shouted to the bridge and then ran aft for their lives. There was only one way to save the ship. Reversing at full speed could not have prevented her from smashing with terrific force against the berg.

The commander signalled to the engine rooms full speed astern on one screw and full speed ahead on the other. The ship whirled as if she were on a pivot, turning in half her length. So close did she shave the berg with her port side that a young English woman who had been sitting near the port rail on the promenade deck reached out to pat the fleeting ice mass. She did not know that it was not usual for transatlantic commanders to graze icebergs for the entertainment of passengers.

She, and the rest of the ship's company, realized their danger a second or so later when the port quarter of the liner bumped violently against the berg. Thirty tons of ice crashed down on the after deck, crushing the gangway bulwark. The ship's turtle back, which hit the berg as she swung around, was dented.



CHAPTER XII—C

It required the hand of an experienced helmsman to bring the vessel through the danger zone. An in-topping billow, capped with a thundering downward, came upon her side. Her precautions of Hades practiced skill with the motion of the way would take a ball upon a hunter on the rise, dipped and cracked like sapling; a whole ton of flung over the stern, did crew as completely as been drawn through the boat seemed to stagger way like a stricken heifer for a moment welter in gloomy chasm in which wave had left her. A smothered scream was the female, when her eye that of Hades Creep, though pale and quiescent.

"That was right well," said Danny Mann, as the more cleft the breakers ward course. "A minute later up with would put it all into it. This just produced a laugh in answer, which startling than agreeable son who addressed her, minutes after, and with considerable disaster, the her peak, and ran along rocks on which Kyrle Dpecting them.

"Remain in the boat," reas, addressing the girl fastened the hood over her see that talkative fellow above on the rocks. I v you an unoccupied room in the cottage, as a neighbor of Danny Mann. I conceal your countenance as little as possible. We, if I should be seen paying attention."

"And am I not to see you again?" said the girl, in an affectionate accent.

"My own love, I would rest without taking leave for all the world. Be so added, pressing her hand and patting her upturn. "You are a noble girl. O pray, and return thanks husband's life, as he she yours. I thought we should be supported in Heaven. Dan! tinued aloud, calling to man, "take care of your s. "His sister!" echoed l by on the rocks. "Oh, m fighting Poll of the Rocks then he hadn't bid Danny care of her, for she is we do that job for herself."

Hardress leaped out u shore, and was received. Daly with a warmth and d portioned to the anxiety had previously experienced.

"My dear fellow, I th should never see you on gain. A thousand and a thousand welcomes! Low the house, and get dinner Stay! Hardress, have things on board?"

"Only a small trunk and You would for ever oblige by procuring a comfortable if you have no room to s this poor fellow of mine ar. He is sickly and you is my foster brother."

"He shall be taken care a room. Come along; you ping wet. Lowry, take up gan's trunk and gun to the Come along. Hardress, catch your death of cold. you afraid Fighting Poll v her tender limbs, that you and watch her so closely?"

"No, no, my dear Daly; I afraid that fellow—Booby, (what's his stupid name)— my trunk; he is watching th and peering about him, im minding what he is doing. along! Well, Kyrle, how a saw you all in the window when I was sailing by."

"Yes; you edited my mot that little feat you perfor the expense of the fishmer though? I shall not be a show my face to her this come. Hello! you air, Boo