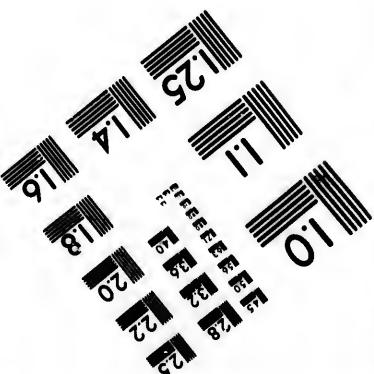
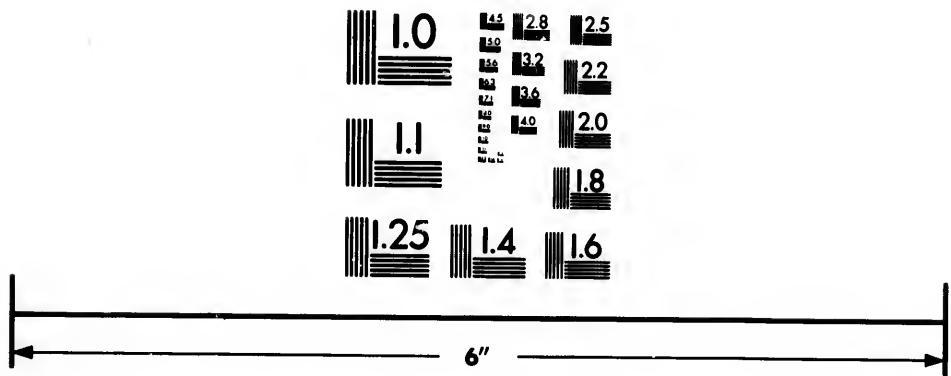
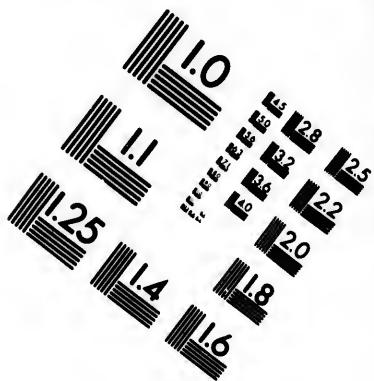


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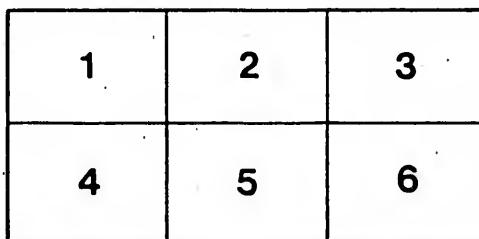
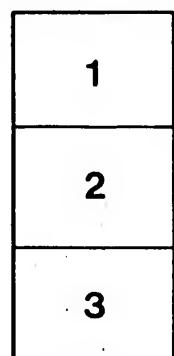
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THE CANADIAN CATHOLIC.

If there be any one who maintains that the Holy Scriptures should not be universally distributed among the people; any one who hinders the Word of the Lord from having free course, that it may be glorified—let him read the following letter, extracted from the narrative of the conversion of Mr. James Reeves, of Quebec.

REV. SIR,

As you desired to know the reasons that induced me to leave the Romish Church, and the means which God adopted to bring me *out of darkness into his marvellous light*, I hasten to communicate them in few words.

I was born at Montreal in 1777. My parents were Roman Catholics. I was baptized and brought up in the Romish Church; and long thought myself in the true way to everlasting life. My hope, however, rested on no other foundation than this—that the Romish Church is the only one on which a person should depend for salvation. Under this impression I passed many years in ignorance and sin. I nevertheless possessed the Holy Scriptures during a period of thirty years—but never read them—because *my priest forbade me, and also hindered me from shewing them to my children*. By obeying man, rather than God, I was kept all that time in darkness and impiety, addicted to superstitious practices, and ignorant of the pure doctrines of the Gospel.

About two years ago, I came to a resolution to read the Bible, which was in my possession; and I bless God daily that he put it into my mind to search the Scriptures; and that he has thus made me acquainted with his holy will and commandments. Daily do I praise him, that he has not only discovered to me the grievous distemper of my soul, but has also led me by his grace to the true physician, who gives this invitation: *come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

The more I study the Sacred Volume, the more my heart feels its truths—the more I discover the errors of the system which I have renounced. Why was I hindered from drawing from the fountain of living waters, which our God and Saviour offers without money to all who thirst for them? Why do the Rulers of the Church of Rome forbid the reading of the Holy Scriptures, but because they fear the discovery of their erroneous doctrines by those very persons, who now believe ignorantly and without examination whatever is taught them? Do not read the Holy Bible, say the Priests of that Church; but the Great God says; John v. 39—*Search the Scriptures, for in them ye have the words of eternal life.* And in Deuteronomy, vi. 6, 7—*These words which I command thee shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children.* And in Joshua, i. 8—*The book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou*

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shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all therein. And in Isaiah, xxxiv. 16—*Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read.* The Apostles urged all persons to read the Scriptures. Acts, xvii. 11. Colossians, iv. 16—and also Acts, viii. 27, 28. The Romish Priests may have their reasons for depriving the people (who hunger and thirst after heavenly righteousness and wisdom) of the Bible; but I will rather believe the words of God himself, than the falsehoods of men, who corrupt the truth. My faith is confirmed by St. Peter's prediction, (Peter, ii. 1, 3) that *false teachers, through covetousness, shall with feigned words make merchandise of you.* As soon as my conversion was known, some persons, silly enough to believe fables, came to talk to me of the miracles performed by their Saints, as if I had never before heard of those fabulous tales. But God has taught me by his Word, that *there is only one Mediator between God and Man, Jesus Christ, the righteous; who was once offered as a satisfaction for sinners; and who is able to save them to the uttermost who come unto God by him.* I therefore renounced the worship of Saints, because it is impious: since it robs our only Mediator of the glory, which is due to him. I gave up the Mass, because Christ suffered death but once, and being risen from the dead, can die no more for my soul, and for those who believe in him; and he is now seated upon the throne of grace, to finish the work of reconciliation for all, who come unto God by him. *I am the door, says the Redcemer, John x. 9, by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved.* Acts, lv. 12. *There is no salvation in any other; for there is none other Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved:* (NOT EVEN BY SAINTS.) See also Hebrews, ix. 25, 28.

Seeing that their solicitations were ineffectual, the Priests threatened to take away my children from me, and they persuaded my daughter to leave her father's house, telling her that the Bible, which I love, and study, and endeavour by God's help to practise, had disordered my mind. The Godfather of my daughter also wrote me a threatening letter, that if I did not allow my daughter to leave me altogether, some serious thing would happen. This change in my principles is not the result of any person's influence, but effected solely by Divine grace, through the perusal of the Scriptures of Truth. I never persuaded my daughter Adelaide, farther than to read the New Testament, which would bring her to the knowledge of the truth;—and in this I have done what was my duty, as her Father—assured as I fully am, that the Sacred Scriptures are divinely inspired, and that the knowledge of the Holy Bible is *profitable to teach, to convince, to correct, and to instruct in righteousness and the way of salvation, by faith which is in Christ Jesus, that the man of God may be perfect, and fitted for every good work.* 2 Tim. iii. 15, 17. My daughter Adelaide, since the death of her mother, has always lived comfortably with me—and it is only since my tuta-

ing to the Lord, that she has gone away from me, yielding to the persuasions of men, who well know, that she would not long continue a Romanist, if she read the Holy Scriptures. I applied to the proper legal authority, to demand that my child should not be withdrawn from the rightful controul and protection of her Father. Thanks be to God, we do not live in the land of the Inquisition, but under a just Sovereign and Government, having the fear of God. My daughter was therefore restored to me, and I bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for it.

I am acquainted with some other Canadians, whose eyes are opened to the truth. I wish they would not keep it to themselves, but make it known, and not let worldly motives prevent them from glorifying the Gospel. I entreat them not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for whoever is ashamed of the Son of Man, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him, and disown him at the last Great Day. I implore them not to indulge that fear of man which bringeth a snare; but to trust in the Lord Jehovah, and be safe. Proverbs, xxix. 25. I call upon them to avow the truth, to declare this all-important subject; the one thing needful—the only way to life everlasting.

For my part, I am determined openly to declare what is the joy of my heart,—that I have escaped this dangerous snare. I bless God that he has, in his infinite mercy, prolonged my life, until it pleased him to shew me the difference there is between the wide gate and broad road leading to destruction;—and the narrow way which conducts to Eternal Life.

I pray God, that all those who read this account of my conversion from Popery to Christianity, may seriously reflect upon it;—and no longer mind the prohibition of reading the Holy Scriptures, but rather search in that Divine Book for the knowledge of Salvation; and then they will not fail, by the grace of God, to know the truth. Then will they find by faith the only Saviour of souls, and be able to say with Saint Peter, *Lord, to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of Eternal Life?*

I give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! may he make his face to shine upon us! may his grace and peace be with us! O Lord, send out thy light and thy truth; and let thy Kingdom come! Amen.

I have the honour to be,

Rev. Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES REEVES.

Rev. _____, Minister
of the English Church,
Quebec.

*** While the reader will make his own reflections upon the foregoing letter, we cannot but express our approbation of this man's conduct, who sought in the word of God for the consolation

and knowledge of which he stood in need. The Gospel alone is the truth; for it was written by holy men, inspired by the spirit of God. St. Paul the Apostle writes thus: Galatians, i. 8—*Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached, let him be accursed.*—We learn also from Acts, xvii. 11, that the Jews of Berea were more noble than those of Thessalonica, because they received the Word of God with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

This example cannot be too closely copied; because it is only by comparing those things we are taught with the Word of God, that we can be certain of going onward in the way of eternal Life. If we are instructed in the true doctrine, it must derive all its force and beauty from Holy Scripture: if the doctrine is false, we cannot be too careful in marking the distinction between the preachers of truth, and the teachers of lies. Every man, therefore, who thinks seriously of the salvation of his soul, should adhere to the sacred Scriptures, considering them as containing all the knowledge which is necessary for his salvation. The Gospel comes to us from the God of Truth—we ought, therefore, to regard it as our rule of faith, and the touchstone of every doctrine, which man teaches. The Gospel comes from Almighty God:—no man, therefore, should presume to alter it, to add to it, or to take away any thing from it; and all religious doctrines which are not according to the Gospel, should be rejected, as opposed to the truth. The apostle St. John declares, that *God will take away his part out of the book of life, if any man add to, or take away from the things which are written in the Inspired Volume.* Revelation, xxii. 18, 19.

We cannot, therefore, but approve of that man, who, freed from worldly fear, seeks the truth where it is to be found, viz: in the Holy Bible; and acts according to the knowledge, which he there gains. Whatever degree of knowledge God may be pleased to impart, his faith must be pure and lively, if it be enlightened; and it will be steadfast, if it rests upon a solid foundation. Let us therefore echo the declaration of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Luke, xi. 28—**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD, AND KEEP IT.**

