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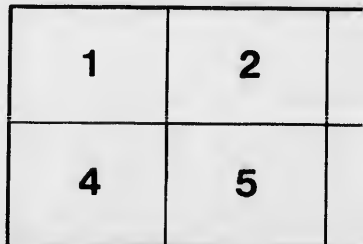
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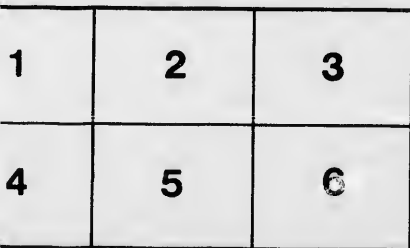
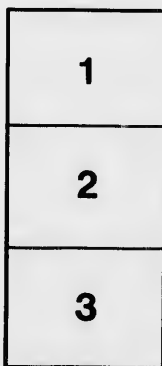
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6

TRACTS BY CANADIAN LAYMEN.

No. 7.

A DIALOGUE.

CATHOLIC. MERE ANGLICAN.

MERE ANGLICAN.

Hast seen the page where Fuller and the rest
At length the Protestant belief attest?
The Church's wisdom here you well may view,
And contemplate the Scripture's teaching too.

CATHOLIC.

An oft-repeated Anglican device!
Thus labouring mountains still give birth to mice.
No bending knee; no sign of sacred Rood;
No vestment but the surplice, stole and hood;
No this, no that; and then, though last not least,
'Altar' a table is; an elder, 'Priest.'
—You strain your feeble pinions to the height;
Sublime negation caps your utmost flight.

MERE ANGLICAN.

'Tis thus our Church in wisdom has decreed;
For moderation suits the present need.
Each rag of Rome we steadfastly defy;
Each clout of Calvin equally we fly;
Nor Dort, nor Trent, shall lead our feet astray;
The middle course is aye the safest way.

CATHOLIC.

Hail to the men who such a paper sign,
And swear it on the Blessed Thirty-Nine!
Your 'middle course' is but the threadbare cant
Of each schismatic who has learned to rant;
The bold Socinian not a creed will spare,
Yet shuns to say what bolder Atheists dare;
The earlier Methodist had this intent,
To strike the line 'twixt Church and vile Dissent;
Then talk no more of what you 'safety' deem,
Until you mark the bound of each extreme.

MERE ANGLICAN.

But why should you from common cause depart?
You know we both are just the same in heart.



In method, not in fact, our difference lies ;
 And thus the case I lay before your eyes :—
 You from the rubrics this conclusion draw,
 That lights and vestments are enjoined by law ;
 Nor, to be candid, can I this confute ;
 The theory is sound, beyond dispute ;
 But when in practice blossoms your research,
 You frighten half the people out of Church ;
 Your rash advice with acquiescence heard,
 Receipts go down, and ruin is the word.

CATHOLIC.

Nay, here you travel fast from bad to worse ;
 The saving rule of doctrine is your purse ;
 All welcome truths you willingly display ;
 You only yield them, when they cease to pay.

MERE ANGLICAN.

We yield them not, but show them not to all ;
 We name *reserve*, what you *concession* call ;
 Not all, like eagles, on the sun may stare ;
 Reflected light alone some eyes can bear ;
 Yet these poor orbs by slow degrees shall learn
 The golden flood of sunlight to discern ;
 Even thus in time the educated mind,
 Which now, alas ! unnumbered trammels bind,
 Will burst its bonds, by reason led aright,
 And not endure, but clamour for the light.

CATHOLIC.

The root of ritual firm in doctrine stands ;
 Our acts express what Holy Church commands ;
 Accept her teaching, and you cannot err
 When gesture is of faith interpreter.
 Discard the vestment, and reject the deed,—
 The loss of symbol means the loss of creed ;
 Else let the King put off his kingly crown,
 And doff his robes, and lay his sceptre down ;
 The things are useless in themselves, we know ;
 But inward truth is taught by outward show.

MERE ANGLICAN.

Yet, if discretion be not still our guide,
 How soon our feet to sure destruction slide !
 In Rome's example we distinctly see
 Undue prostration marks hypocrisy.

CATHOLIC.

'Tis thus you ask, with every devious sect,
Not "What is right?" but "What does Rome reject?"
Your teaching varies from the ancient score,
"Come, all ye faithful, let us—not—adore!"

MERE ANGLICAN.

Not when the Priest the sacred words has said,
And bears about the consecrated Bread;
Or if you must, my counsel yet respect;
Adore in heart, but do not genuflect.

CATHOLIC.

Yes, like yourself, with stealthy tread proceed,
Nor show in act the faith we own in creed;
But if we may not, why did Paul exclaim
Omne genu flectatur, in the NAME?
For, if the NAME such reverent act require,
Sure greater awe the PRESENCE should inspire.

MERE ANGLICAN.

Yet hasty progress all the work would mar;
We must be wise as crafty serpents are.
By small advances mighty fields are won;
—We lose a father;—we may gain a son;
That son, to years of ripe discretion grown,
The Catholic religion calls his own;
Perhaps,—who knows?—the priestly office bears,
And in his turn some sacred vestment wears,
(Whose name 'twere now inopportune to tell;
But far too Romish is the chasuble.)
Or, if not so, the next him in descent
Will always use a purple stole in Lent;
The thinner end of any kind of wedge
Is of the rest the earnest and the pledge.
Incautious action we would deprecate;
For all comes round to him who will but wait.

CATHOLIC.

Such doubtful gains but shake the people's trust;
Suspicion ripens soon to rank disgust.
The 'pensive public' fidgets in its pew
And keenly criticizes all you do.
Then some the next conventicle attend;
(They never know where all this change will end;
You must be, sure, a "Papist" in disguise,
To cast your dust in true believers' eyes.)

The rest, your friends, though sick at heart, remain,
And watch you vacillating back again.
(Beware in time, lest doomsday quickly come,
And find you playing yet the pendulum!)
But if the purblind people, as you think,
One day may see, who now can only blink,
—O consummation excellent, to hope
Your great-great-grandson, though he curse the Pope,
May yet—on state occasions—wear a cope!

MERE ANGLICAN.

But see what comes, when every newborn whim
Each fool adopts, as seems correct to him;
Some zealous priest, with opposition vexed,
Still wins the next advance, and still the next;
Still by degrees the churchly fabric grows,
The constant wonder of protesting foes;—
When in the midst an "acrobat" appears,
Misguided youth!—and wrecks the work of years!

CATHOLIC.

What wondrous pictures can Invention paint,
When once she wields the brush without restraint!
Indeed, my friend, a solid work was that,
To be subverted by an "acrobat!"

MERE ANGLICAN.

Nay, but the priest discovered to his cost
The anxious work of many years was lost;
Alas, poor man! to catch them unaware
He spread the net with most judicious care,
The erring sheep in safest pasture led,
And aye with milk the babes in knowledge fed.

CATHOLIC.

These are your tricks; we know them all of old,
The specious plans mere Anglicans unfold.
You take a spoon and "feed the babes on milk,"
—Sweet babes, who sport in broadcloth and in silk!
You do your best in "catching folks with guile;"
At such plain traps these guileless mortals smile;
The net in vain for any bird is spread,
Who of that net can count each single thread.
—The recreant Cranmer, in a guilty hour,
Postponed the love of truth to that of power;
His true successors, you the faith divide,
And slyly thrust the better half aside.
Give us the CHURCH the early COUNCILS know;
The Thirty-Nine may well suffice for you.



