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THE DARK vs. THE LIGHT AGES.

FATHER GRUBER'S GREAT LECTURE AT ST. VINCENT'S CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, ON MONDAY.

A Masterly Defence of the Catholic Church.

It has been well said that for the last three centuries, history has been merely a conspiracy against truth. And especially has this been true with respect to English history, or rather, the recorded interpretation of English history.

Until quite recently the most unfounded charges against the Catholic Church have been accepted, as a matter of course, by the unfortunate heirs of England's apostasy. The sources of English literature had been poisoned, and, though the streams grew wider as it advanced, it lost little or none of its old malignancy.

My friends, there are thousands of sufficiently intelligent persons to-day who firmly believe all that has been said about the ages that preceded the pretended Reformation. They are the Dark Ages, or, no enlightenment, no reason, no bible, no religion, no learning, "no nothing," as one of Mr. Charles Dickens' characters might say.

Before entering upon the main argument, I shall trespass upon your patience, while I rapidly sketch the progress of the Church which Our Redeemer has established on earth for the elevation and salvation of mankind, and let me here observe, that this lecture is not a rapid generalization of a subject so vast that a dozen discourses would fall to do it justice.

of Redemption. That system, like all God's works, was good, essentially good; so good that God Himself guaranteed its unchanging goodness to the end. "Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world!" That is sufficient, for God cannot tolerate the least shadow of error.

In the first place, we find the Synagogue furiously opposing the infant Church. No opponent had so plausible an argument against the Catholic Church. The Christian society claimed the holy books revealed by Judaism. The annals of the chosen people were saved to the Christians.

The second formidable enemy of the Catholic Church is suggested by St. Paul's sermon in the presence of Grecian philosophers. God has ever been the "unknown God" of philosophers. The few exceptions prove the rule, for even they, more culpable than the rest, turned their backs upon Him whom they plainly saw.

But a new era dawned upon the world. A school of great men arose in Alexandria who took Grecian philosophy, Christianized it, and compelled it to do duty for God and His Church. The heathens were engaged to find their own weapons turned against themselves.

I have just remarked that Grecian sophistry retreated sullen and dejected, but it did not die. Though prostrated again and again by the mighty genius of Athanasius, by the vast intelligence of Augustine, by the unfathomed depths of Aquinas' reason, it has been the prolific mother of every sect and system of false philosophy.

blood marked Rome's dread argument, but centuries of blood are nothing if met by centuries of heroic patience. "Behold, I am with you," broke forth from time to time in the midst of desolation and death, and, in the darkness, Christianity caught occasional glimpses of the Divine Master walking calmly through the storm, even as He had walked one troubled night upon the mad sea waves.

Those were dark ages, looked upon from a human point of view, but the myriads who bear their triumphant palms in Heaven this hour call them light, very light. The Church, as well as they, hath ever a crimson dawn, and none but a divine system could have sustained the dreadful conflict.

It was Coarism that arrayed the pagan forces of Rome against the Catholic Church. The "divine" emperor could not tolerate for an instant a religion which despised his false deity. All was to be rendered to Caesar; nothing to God; just like our Coarism of the present day.

Though a large proportion of the Roman people had listened to the teaching of the Church and had humbly bowed to the yoke of the Gospel, the great mass of the Empire remained wedded to the pernicious idolatry which had destroyed their morals, and was now undermining their national life.

A mysterious influence begins to agitate the far tribes who roamed on the outskirts of the old Roman civilization. They were too insignificant for specific names. They were called barbarians. Modern research has given them names unknown to ancient times. There never was any principle of unions to keep them together.

Up, up, Caesar! Call together your legions and your horsemen! Invoke the ancient spirit which laughed at danger and sold contemptuously the Sial ground of Canaan. Arise, mighty Rome, in your wrath and sharpen your sword for the contest!

Carpe diem! sang Rome; enjoy the passing hour! Mirabeau cried in death! "Crow me with roses; let me die to the sounds of sweet music!" That was the disposition of pagan Rome. Her emperor was having his statues erected and murdering the base common fellow who refused to fall down and worship them.

"Let the Lord arise and let His enemies be scattered!" The crimes of Rome, the blood of the saints, cried to Heaven, and the word was spoken. Like an alpine torrent, like the rush of Niagara, the executors of God's wrath swept, amid a whirlwind of flame and blood, over the afflicted empire.

had spent its force. What? Did the comparatively youthful Church survive that which prostrated mighty Rome? "Behold, I am with you." Remember those words, and cease to wonder! In a few centuries we find the new masters of the world sufficiently elevated and civilized to make a Charlemagne possible. Who was the civilizer? What principle of law, order and humanity informed the barbarous hordes and changed them into wholly different beings?

Now we have arrived at the epoch of Charlemagne. Dark centuries have been passed, but let me ask, does the Catholic Church, or does she not, stand in a creditable light up to the time of the resuscitation, in the person of the great Frank ruler of the Western Empire? If her noble efforts for God, society and morality be denied, then I say no more.

The empire of Charlemagne was strikingly providential. The Catholic Church prepared the way for the great warrior-king's sceptre. It was necessary that a civil ruler, a great genius, what our German friends call a many-sided man, should hold universal sway during the transition period from the old to the new order of civilization.

When Charlemagne's empire had done its allotted work, it passed away. A vast centralization is not favorable to national prosperity or to the happiness of peoples. The Russia of to-day, a mass of incongruous opposing elements without order or cohesion, may be taken as an illustration of the truth of my observation. History will yet furnish us a further example of this continent.

Among bodily annoyances easy to get rid of since the introduction of Milk of Magnesia, are nausea, heartburn, furred tongue, bitter taste in the mouth and offensive breath. This pleasant and popular remedy removes them all. For excess in eating or drinking, it is most valuable, as it immediately removes the irritation and acidity of the stomach.

Probably no one article of diet is so generally adulterated as is cocoa. This article in its pure state, scientifically treated, is recommended by the highest medical authority as the most nourishing and strengthening beverage, and is strongly recommended to all as an article that will tone and stimulate the most delicate stomach.

The pianos advertised by some of the Montreal actioners to be sold in private houses this spring as "Weber" pianos are not "Weber" pianos. The advertisements appear to be intentionally worded so as to mislead the public. There is probably no piano maker in the world who has had so many imitators, both of his name and style, as "Weber."

Death of a Canadian Pioneer.

On the 14th of May, Michael Foley, of Ramsay, Lanark County, passed away from this life full of years and honor. He was one of the old landmarks of Western Canada, came to it when it was a weak colony, and left it when it formed part of a great confederation. The deceased gentlemen were well-known and respected, and his loss is universally regretted.

But who, while contemplating Canadian prosperity to-day, fully appreciate the hardships and difficulties in the way of the early settlers? Not many! I got into company with one of these old settlers. His name is Foley—a venerable old man of eighty-three. He emigrated in 1820—fifty-five years ago—the very year the illustrious Dr. England, of Cork, was made Bishop of Charleston.

It is time now that I should approach the particular subject of my lecture, merely remarking that a Church which had Christianized Europe and remodelled the very basis of society, ascending to the spirit of the Gospel, would not be likely to undo her own work, stultify her record, and change her nature during the centuries which preceded the so-called reformation.

Lord Ripon is one of the few Roman Catholic noblemen who did not swerve from the Whigs during the reign of Lord Beaconsfield. The Indian Vice-royalty is generally regarded as a poor peer's prize, and he is probably the wealthiest man in point of hereditary wealth who ever held the office.

A GOOD ACCOUNT. "To sum it up, six long years of bod-ridden sickness and suffering, costing \$200 per year, total, \$1,200—all of which was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters taken by my wife, who has done her own housework for a year since without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it for their benefit."

Holloway's Pills—Epidemic Diseases—The alarming increase of death from cholera and diarrhoea should be a warning to everyone to subdue at once any irregularity tending towards disease. Holloway's Pills should now be in every household to rectify all impure states of the blood, to remedy weakness, and to overcome impaired general health.

Books.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

- AIROBTOLAT DE LA FEMME Catholique depuis l'origine du Christianisme jusqu'à nos jours. Par le P. J. P. Ventura de Raulion; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$2.75. CHERITEN (LE) A L'ECOLE DU Cœur de Jesus, etc. Par le P. Jacques Nolet; 12m. bro. \$1.00. CŒUR (LE) DE JESUS, etc. Par le P. H. Saintrain; 12m. bro. \$1.00. CONFÉRENCES THEOLOGIQUES de Spirituelles sur les grandeurs de la Sainte Vierge Marie. Par le P. L. F. D'Argentan; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$1.88. CONFÉRENCES THEOLOGIQUES de Spirituelles sur les grandeurs de Jésus Christ; par le P. L. F. D'Argentan; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$1.88. CONFÉRENCES THEOLOGIQUES de Spirituelles sur les grandeurs de Dieu; par le P. L. F. D'Argentan; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$1.88. COURS COMPLET D'INSTRUCTION Chrétienne, ou des devoirs de l'homme dans la doctrine Chrétienne; par le P. Marlot; 12m. bro. \$1.00. COURS COMPLET D'INSTRUCTIONS familiales sur toutes les vérités dogmatiques et morales de la religion; par J. A. Armand; 12m. bro. \$1.00. COURS D'INSTRUCTIONS FAMILIÈRES précédées d'une métropole de Milan, par Ange Ramoni; 4 vols in 8vo. \$3.25. DE Imitatione SACRI CORDIS JESU, libri quinti, auctore P. J. Armandi; 8. 4. in 12m. \$1.00. DEVOTION (DE LA) AU SACRÉ CŒUR DE JESUS; par le P. S. Franco, S. J.; in 12. \$1.00. FEMMES (LES) DE LEVANGILE. Homélies précédées de la doctrine de la Sainte Vierge Marie. Par le P. Ventura de Raulion; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$2.75. HOMÉLIES SUR LES PARABOLES de N. S. Jésus Christ, précédées de la doctrine Chrétienne; par le P. Ventura de Raulion; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$2.75. JESUS CHRIST ETUDIE en vue de la prédication dans St. Thomas d'Aquin; par M. P. A. Bouché; 12m. bro. \$1.00. MANUEL DU SACRÉ-CŒUR, ou instructions, prières, pratiques, indulgences et divers exercices de dévotion en l'honneur du Cœur de Jésus et de Marie; par J. G., in 12 bro. \$1.00. MOIS DU SACRÉ-CŒUR DE JESUS; par M. de Segur; in 18bro. \$1.00. OEUVRES DE HOUHALOUË; 6 vols in 8vo. \$5.25. OEUVRES DE MASSILLON; 3 vols in 8vo. \$3.00. ISAIËS (LES) ETUDIEES en vue de la prédication; par M. L'Abbé Doublé; 8. in 12m. \$1.00. SACRÉ CŒUR (LE) DE JESUS d'après St. A. Aloysius; précédées de la doctrine de la Sainte Vierge Marie, pour l'honneur de ce Cœur, par le P. Ventura de Raulion; 2 vols. in 8vo. \$2.75. SAINT PAUL, ETUDIE en vue de la prédication; par M. P. A. Bouché; 12m. bro. \$1.00. SEMIOMES DU PÈRE HYDIAINS, Missionnaires des Indes; précédées de la doctrine Chrétienne; 8 vols. in 12m. bound. \$6.50. For sale by J. B. HOLLAND & FILS, Book-sellers and Stationers, 12 & 14 St. Vincent Street, Montreal.

Medical, &c

MILK OF MAGNESIA

Cures Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Sour Stomach and Sick Headache. Immediately corrects bad taste in the mouth, and renders impure breath sweet and agreeable. Ladies using this preparation will find it of such real value as to make it a standard remedy to every household.

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For beauty of Polish, Saving Labor, Cleanliness, Durability, and Cheapness, Unequaled. MORSE BROS., Proprietors, Canton, Mass. Each package of the genuine bears our Trade Mark—a cut of the Rising Sun.

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FARM AND GARDEN

TIPS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE.

Corn.—Frequent cultivation is necessary to the destruction of the weeds while they are young. A smoothing harrow may be used...

Swedish Turnips may be sown this month in drills, 30 inches apart. A pair of seed should be sown...

Hay.—Oleifer and Timothy should be cut when in full bloom. It is not so good as the quality of hay is not so good.

Potatoes.—The Colorado beetle must be kept in check by a frequent application of the London purple. The liquid method of application...

Bees.—If the weather has been cold and backward, and injured the bees, they must be kept in a warm place...

Working Horses.—A thorough washing with clean water, and a good rubbing with kerosene...

FARM AND GARDEN

TIPS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE.

make a good growth of leaves, after which they may be taken up and put under cover until dry...

Greenhouses and window plants. A tripping of the greenhouse at this season is not necessary. Many plants do better kept in...

Commercial. CITY WHOLESALE PRICES. FLOUR. Superior Extra. \$5 80 @ 5 90. Extra Superfine. 5 70 @ 5 80.

CHEESE MARKETS. LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., May 31.—Market little stronger than last week; fancy 12c to 12 1/2c...

PRICES IN LIVERPOOL. The following are the Liverpool quotations for each day of the past week, the prices of wheat and flour being top figures...

LIVE STOCK MARKETS. MONTREAL, May 31. There was a brisk demand for cattle to-day on export account, at prices ranging from 4 1/2 to 5 1/2...

THE HORSE MARKET.

There has been a good demand for horses during the past week, resulting in a fair volume of business, which shows an improvement upon that of the week previous.

MONDAY, MAY 23. There has been a good demand for horses during the past week, resulting in a fair volume of business...

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. The undersigned will mail to any address, the oldest and best publications of interest to the Irish people...

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT. DAME MARIE ANGELOU LUDVINE AYCARD, of the City and District of Montreal, wife of Amable Edouard Gaudry...

D. MURPHY, Saddler and Harness Maker, No. 76 St. Joseph St., Montreal.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY. Tenders for Rolling Stock. Tenders are invited for furnishing the Rolling Stock required to be delivered on the Canadian Pacific Railway...

THE TRUE WITNESS. LIST OF CITY AGENTS. The TRUE WITNESS is for sale at the following News Depots:

BIRTH. WURTELE.—At Hochelaga, on Sunday, 23rd May, the wife of F. W. Wurtele of a daughter.

DIED. SWENEY.—At Prescott, Ontario, May 25th, Peter M. Sweney, in the 27th year of his age.

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