

PRIVATE JUDGMENT.

Instructive Extracts from the Writings of Rev. James Balmes.

The following interesting abstract is taken from that widely-known masterpiece of language and of reasoning, "European Civilization," by Rev. James Balmes, the renowned Catholic thinker of Spain.

This fixedness of idea, this unanimity of will, this wisdom and constancy of plan, this progress with a firm step towards a definite end and end; and, in fine, this admirable unity of acknowledgment in favor of Catholicism by M. Guizot himself, have not been imitated by Protestantism, either in good or evil.

GOOD REASON SACRIFICED.

There was therein no plan, no foresight, no system. The mere resistance to the authority of the Church included the necessity of unlimited private judgment, and the establishment of understanding as supreme judge.

"The right of examining what we ought to believe," says a celebrated Protestant, "is the foundation of Protestantism. The first Reformers did not think thus: they thought themselves able to place the pillars of Hercules at the mind according to their own lights; but they were mistaken in hoping to make those who had rejected all authority of this kind in the Catholic religion submit to their decisions as infallible."

"The resistance on their part proves that they were not led by any of those ideas, which, although erroneous, show, in some measure, nobleness and generosity of heart; and that it is not of them that the human mind can say: 'They have erred, but it was in order to give me more liberty of action.'"

But it is in vain for man to struggle against the nature of things; Protestantism endeavored, without success, to limit the right of private judgment. It raised its voice against it, and sometimes appeared to attempt its total destruction; but the right of private judgment, which was in its own bosom, remained there, developed itself, and acted there in spite of it.

Assisting Daily at Mass.

"Make every effort," says St. Francis de Sales, "to assist daily at the Mass in order that with the priest you may offer up the Holy Sacrifice of your Redeemer, to God His Father, for yourselves, and for the whole Church."

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MOTHERHOOD OF THE CHURCH.

From the Cradle to the Grave She Cares for Her Children.

The Catholic Church has one characteristic of which her opponents know little, and which they greatly undervalue. It is her all-abounding, all-embracing motherhood which, tender and alert from the cradle to the grave, protects, instructs, sustains and soothes. Each Jew and every ornament of the Church is dear to her children, and becomes more and more evident as they study her beauty and dwell in her courts, but to the poorest and weakest the meaneat and most abject of her springs, as to the nearest and dearest of her most spiritually-minded heirs, her motherhood is apparent and enticing.

PRIVATE JUDGMENT DANGEROUS.

If you deprive the human mind of the support of authority of some kind or other, on what can it depend? Abandoned to its own delirious dreams it is forced again into the gloomy paths which led philosophers of the ancient schools to chaos. Reason and experience are here agreed. If you substitute the private judgment of Protestants for the authority of the Church all the questions respecting God and man remain without solution.

From the Darkest House the Catholic is sure of passing at will to the silent but soothing welcome with the mother arms of Holy Church.

Before her altars he may kneel in supplication or in thanksgiving as sure of unwavering attention as though the spoken assurance sounded clear in his mortal hearing. It is no superstition, no effect of early teaching, no blind clinging to a deceiving hope when hope is dead. It is truth and reality, beyond proof, without expression, but undoubted. Abused and neglected by him in health and prosperity this characteristic of the Church brings back to her the erring child in sickness and in trouble.

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Baron Russel, Lord Chief Justice of England, will not visit San Francisco during his American sojourn. He has a sister here, Sister Mary Baptist, the Mother Superior of the Order of Sisters of Mercy in this State, and the founder and head of St. Mary's Hospital.

Professor Huxley.

Daring life Professor Huxley had the reputation of being one of the apostles of irreligion in England, in the domain of science and philosophy, and an opponent of the truths and claims of Christianity.

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A STORY.

I believe it was Father Hudson who recently quoted the *Incarnatio* the cyclic which said that the mildest form of dotage was *anecdotage*.

"The Pioneer Irish Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Detroit—Rev. Thomas Cullen." Father Cullen lived in Ann Arbor, and his housekeeper was an Irish dame of mature years and of no very amiable disposition. However, she worshipped Father Cullen and he, in his turn, sheathed one of which was to admit no one during his absence. The Vicar-General of the diocese was a most excellent man, but little used to American ways and manners, not having been in this country many years. It happened one afternoon that Father Cullen had gone on a missionary visit to a neighboring village and was to return at 6 o'clock. About 3 o'clock a dignified appearing gentleman in priestly attire and carrying a grip entered the parlor gate and rang the door bell. The dame partly opened the door, and as the Vicar was about to push his way in she prevented him and asked his business.

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