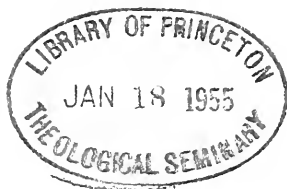


A Catholic Layman

Address to the Public
on Religious Intolerance
and Persecution.

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An address to the public on
religious intolerance and

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC,

On Religious Intolerance and Persecution.

No. 5.

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ICAL SEMINARY.

"Quousque tandem abutere patientia nostra," Millere?

III. *The Church of England.*

Henry VIII. was the father of the Reformation in England. The atrocious wickedness of his career, the various changes of his religion, and the changes which he enforced on his subjects by acts of a pliant, servile parliament, are too well known to the merest sciolist in history, to require detail.

The creed, or confession of faith, was new-modelled under Edward, and finally and lastingly arranged by Queen Elizabeth.

It is well known that Henry VIII. decreed burning against Anabaptists for denying the efficacy of infant baptism—and against those who denied the real presence, and decapitation against those who denied his supremacy.*

I single out a few cases under these three reigns, to display the infuriate spirit that prevailed among the English reformers. And first, that of the interesting Anne Ascue, who for "dogmatizing on the real presence," was so violently racked, that according to the words of Hume, "*her body was almost torn asunder;*" and persisting in her religious opinions, "*she was condemned to be burned alive; and being so dislocated by the rack, that she could not stand, she was carried to the stake in a chair. Together with her were conducted N. Belenion, a priest, J. Lussels, of the king's household, and J. Adams, a tailor, who had been condemned for the same crime to the same punishment!*" Hume's England, Phil. Edition, Vol. II. p. 443.

Here are four miserable victims offered up to the Moloch of Persecution, by the ancestors of those men who have the shameless effrontery to cant, and whine, and turn up the whites of their eyes, deploring the wickedness of the blood-thirsty Roman Catholics for their persecutions; and thanking God that they are not like those cruel, idolatrous Papists; as if their ancestors were wholly guiltless of the hideous crime!

Let me add the burning of Jane Bocher, under Edward VI. at the instigation and by the importunity of Archbishop Cranmer, and the numberless hangings, drawings, and quarterings of priests, under Elizabeth. There were 223 Catholics executed for their religion in this reign.

Would it not excite the most just indignation, were these atrocious crimes charged to the account of the Church of England of the present day! But is not that precisely the shameful, unprincipled, and outrageous course pursued with the Roman Catholics?



I cited the Rev. Dr. Miller to the public bar of this nation, to prove the truth of the following gross accusations, by any Roman

* During the reign of this monster, there were eighty Roman Catholics executed for denying his supremacy; among the rest, the illustrious Chancellor More and the pious Bishop Fisher. Some doubts, expressed by Catharine Parr, one of his wives, brought her neck in danger; but by giving up her doubts, and soothing the ruffian, she escaped, and survived him.

Catholic book of authority, as the doctrine of the Church of Rome, or part of the Roman Catholic system, or else to acknowledge himself a calumniator.

- 1st. That the Pope can change the essential nature of moral good and evil.
- 2d. That he can make, by his fiat, sin to be holiness, and holiness sin.
- 3d. That he can dispense with all laws, human and divine.
- 4th. That all kinds of deceptions, frauds, and lying, are justifiable when the glory of God and the good of the church require them.

This was a fair challenge; and how has he met it? as a gentleman, a clergyman, or a logician? Has he made the slightest attempt to prove his assertions? Has he referred to any Roman Catholic book of authority in support of them? No such thing. If he had, it would have been unsuccessful. He has merely reiterated his calumnious charges, and adds—

“All this I have *said*, [his ipse dixit is doubtless sufficient] and on being called on to review it, I am willing to say it again, [this is, to be sure, irrefragable proof.] because I am just as well persuaded that it is strictly correct, [this may suffice for him, but will not satisfy the public.] as I am that there were such men as Luther and Tetzels, or that Charles I. of England was brought to the block.”

To this the Doctor adds the worn-out, threadbare, and miserable slang of “the man of sin,” and “son of perdition.” He forgot, I presume, the ——— of Babylon, who would have made a capital pendant to the “man of sin.”

He refers to Mosheim, Tillotson, &c., who make the same declarations. But does he pretend that this reference will satisfy the public? It is no time of day to take the ipse dixit of any man, how high or exalted soever, on a point of such importance, and on which such inveterate prejudices prevail. If Mosheim, or the others, have proved by proper authorities what they have asserted, then the Doctor's task is easy. He has only to copy their proofs, whatever they may be, and let the public judge of their validity. But if they, like him, have dealt in assertions without proof, he “takes nothing by his motion.” Their mere assertion will not weigh a feather in the scale. He must, in that case, adduce his own proofs himself.

Let it be remembered, that I confined my challenge to the four specific points above quoted. When he has proved them, or acknowledged that he can adduce no proof, then the remainder may be taken up; but not till then; this is a *sine qua non*. I take the liberty, however, to add another challenge, and defy him to produce, in the wide range of European history, for a hundred years, or in the history of this country from its first settlement, a single, clear, applicable, well-attested fact, to warrant the odious and calumnious charges he has adduced; and surely, even supposing for a moment, that in anterior periods, those principles and practices which he alleges, had prevailed, one, two, or three centuries of innocence might be pleaded in bar of condemnation for ancestral iniquity.

It is truly ludicrous for this reverend gentleman to complain of “the coarse invectives of the champion of Romanism.” To have made this complaint after his coarse and outrageous attack, not merely on the Roman Catholics of this country, probably 500,000 in number, but upon the whole body, throughout the globe, comprising 80,000,000 of people, as “foes of God and man,” and as “requiring to be watched as highwaymen and assassins in the dark,” requires a degree of mental delusion not often met with. It is precisely as if a man who had assailed another with a mace, were to

exclaim against the injustice of being met in return with a hickory stick; for Dr. Miller's assault and my retort, bear about the same proportion to each other.

When the Rev. Dr. Miller assailed the Roman Catholics as "foes of God and man," and as requiring "to be watched as highwaymen or assassins in the dark," he made no exception, no qualification. It was a sweeping denunciation, from which no individual of the great body could escape. He now comes forward with an ephemeral newspaper qualification, which removes a portion of the venom of his original declaration; a qualification, which, from the nature of the vehicle in which it appears, will perish and be forgotten in a week, while the wholesale condemnation will survive the author, and probably produce deleterious consequences a century hence. He says—

"I take for granted that every candid reader of the 'Introductory Essay' will understand me as pointing, in all the unfavorable representations which it makes, at the Roman Catholic system, or the Roman Catholic church, as a general body, and not to all its individual adherents."

This may be now *understood*—but until now it was neither expressed nor understood. There was, I repeat, no qualification, exception, or limitation whatever, of the wholesale calumnious attack, of which, I trust, those who have any regard for the Doctor's character, will feel ashamed.

"If," says the Rev. Dr. Miller, "the Romish church, for more than ten centuries, has been consigning millions [!!!] of human beings to the most heartless and cruel butchery for daring to follow the dictates of conscience," &c.

On what a large scale the Doctor calculates! Millions! millions! What an important and conclusive word is *if*, to build an argument on! Let me in return ask, *if* this insinuation be, as it really is, a most extravagant and hyperbolical and Munchausen exaggeration, what becomes of the Doctor's *if*, and the superstructure resting on such a slender foundation?

It is not improbable that the average annual number of persons punished with death by the Roman Catholics on account of their religion, from the first perpetration of the heinous crime, does not greatly, if at all, exceed the number shot down, and otherwise cruelly punished by fines, forfeitures, tortures by thumbikins, the carpenter's daughter, incarceration and exile, in one year, in Scotland, under the administration of Lord Lauderdale.* So much for the Reverend Doctor's millions!!!

In the course of my strictures on the atrocious spirit of persecution, I adduced various instances of its exercise by different denominations of Christians, and among the rest, as I was called upon by fairness and candor, I instanced cases in which it was perpetrated by Roman Catholics. Dr. Miller expresses his astonishment at this ingenuous avowal, and declares that—

"No part of the Catholic Layman's angry paper has filled me with more surprise than the *suicidal*, but apparently inadvertent admissions of the spirit of the Church of Rome."

Shall we ascribe to superannuation, or to the narrowness of mind that eternally accompanies a blind and bigoted devotion to party, whether in relation to politics or religion, that hallucination which regards this proceeding as "*suicidal*," or as the result of "inadvert-

* See Laing's History of Scotland, *passim*.

ence?" It is far, very far indeed, from "suicidal," and equally remote from "inadvertence." It was the result of a conviction that "honesty is the best policy;" and that when I arraigned the persecuting spirit of Calvin, Knox, Henry VIII., Elizabeth and Lord Lauderdale, it was due to the honorable cause of truth, to acknowledge that Roman Catholics had perpetrated the odious crime.*

Would to God that Dr. Miller and his friends were actuated by that spirit which he styles "suicidal;" and that they would honestly avow in their publications the horrible persecutions of the Anabaptists and Roman Catholics in England, the bloodthirsty and murderous persecutions of the Cameronians in Scotland, the drownings of the Anabaptists in Switzerland, the infuriate persecutions of the Arminians in Holland, and, in a word, the persecutions carried on by the reformers, more especially the Calvinists, wherever they had power, even in this country. Then the force of truth would compel them to acknowledge that persecution is not the child of any one religion more than another; but is the besetting sin of bad men possessed of power, who, whether in politics or religion, are prone to oppress and crush their fellow men who differ from them in opinion.

"Man, proud man,
Drest in a little brief authority;
Most ignorant of what he's most assur'd,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high heav'n,
As make e'en angels weep."

One sermon, or essay, or pamphlet of this description, would do more service to society than a thousand "*introductory essays*," or histories of Popery, or attacks on Quakerism. It would teach men the holy doctrine of mutual forgiveness, as they have been mutual offenders; and would entitle the speaker or writer to the benediction pronounced by the founder of their religion on such conduct:—

"Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of God."

If "the peace-makers" be deservedly styled "the children of God," are not the sowers of strife and discord and hatred, and all the other detestable passions of our nature, children of the devil?

A CATHOLIC LAYMAN.

Philadelphia, Sept. 15, 1834.

* To my surprise, some Roman Catholics have been dissatisfied with my second number, on account of the "suicidal" statements, to use the language of Dr. Miller, of Catholic persecutions which it contains. I am persuaded they take a very incorrect view of the subject. I believe that number to be one of the best of the series. A fair and caudid admission of the errors of your own party, goes far to secure you credit in detailing the errors of your antagonists. So that even if I did not scorn the *suppressio veri*, as much as the *suggestio falsi*, mere policy would dictate the course pursued. But the reader may rest assured, that far higher motives have dictated the fair avowal of Roman Catholic persecutions.

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

On Religious Intolerance and Persecution.

No. 6.

“Live in peace; and the God of all peace shall be with you.”—2 Cor. xiii. 11.

IV. Calvinists.

Having, as I hope, fully proved that the conduct of the early baptists, the methodists, and the Church of England protestants, ought to induce those of the present day to observe a profound and prudent silence with regard to any aberrations, real or supposed, of the ancestors of the Roman Catholics, I proceed to perform the same service for the Calvinists and Lutherans, and shall commence with Calvin and John Knox.

These reformers were men of extreme rigour and austerity—and in their horror of the Roman Catholic religion, regarded the retention by the Protestant Episcopal Church, of any of the forms or ceremonies, or the clerical dresses, of the former, as approaching to idolatry, and the whole service as “an ill-disguised mass.” Both of them clearly and unequivocally advocated capital punishments for heresy. Their descendants, however, *mirabile dictu*, are the most violent and unappeasable enemies of the Roman Catholics, chiefly on account of the persecutions of the latter, regardless of the principles and practice of their own founders!!

That Calvin was the instigator of the apprehension of Servetus, and that he was in favor of his being capitally punished, stands recorded in his private letters to his friends. (1) While he (Servetus) was in prison, Calvin expressed a hope that he would soon suffer his punishment, (2) which was death. He tells us, it is true, that he was opposed to the *mode* of punishment in his case. (3) But that does not affect the question in the least.

Whether an unfortunate heretic, or schismatic, is simply hanged, roasted alive, or hanged, drawn, and quartered, makes some difference as to the sufferings of the wretched victim; but none as to the execrable spirit of persecution.

These facts ought forever to arrest the torrent of abuse lavished on the Roman Catholics for persecution; for I repeat, and it can never be repeated too often, that if it were lawful, just, and proper, to put Servetus to death, because his religious opinions differed from those of the ruling powers of Geneva, which of course those powers re-

1. “He (Servetus) was cast into prison, whence he escaped, I know not how; and was wandering about Italy for about four months. At length, having, under evil auspices, come hither, he was arrested, AT MY INSTIGATION, by one of our syndics, and thrown into prison.”—Calvin to Sulzerius. (7)

2. “The author of this blasphemy is held in prison by our magistrates, and soon, I hope, to suffer his punishment.”—Calvin to the pastors of the church at Frankfurt. (8)

3. “To-morrow he will be taken to execution. WE HAVE LABOURED TO CHANGE THE KIND OF DEATH. Why we failed of success, we shall defer till we see you.”—Calvin to Farrell. (9)

(7) “Re vero patefacta, in carcerem est coniectus. Undè, nescio quomodo, elapsus, per Italiam erravit ferè quatuor menses. Tandem huc, malis auspiciis, appulsum, unus ex syndicis, ME AUCTORE, in carcerem duci jussit.”—Calvini Epistolæ et Responsa, Hanoviae 1597, p. 294.

(8) “Auctor ipse tenetur in carcere, a magistratu nostro, et propediem, UT SPERO, daturus est penas.”—Idem 290.

(9) “Cras ad supplicium ducetur. Genus mortis conati sumus mutare, sed frustra. Cur nihil profecerimus, coram narrandum differo.”—Idem 304.

garded as the only true religion, then was it lawful for Nero, Dioclesian, Trajan—the Duke of Alva—Henry VIII.—Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, to persecute “to the death” dissenters from their forms of worship.

All the leading reformers decidedly approved of the death of Servetus. I annex in a note, the testimony on this subject of three conspicuous characters—Bucer, (4) Bullinger (5) and Melancthon. (6)

I presume I have quoted enough of, and from, Calvin and other principal continental reformers, to show that they were decidedly in favour of capital punishments for religious opinions.

I now proceed to take a cursory view of the doctrines of John Knox, which ought imperiously to impose silence on the Presbyterians on this revolting subject. He clearly and explicitly advocates capital punishment, not merely of “*idolatrour Papists,*” but of those guilty of “*blasphemy, and other crimes pertaining to the majesty of God,*” of which the chief magistrates or rulers were doubtless to be the judges.

“The punishment of such crimes as idolatry, blasphemy, and *others that touch the majesty of God,* does not belong to the Kings and chief rulers only, but to **THE WHOLE BODY of the people, and every member of the same.**”—Appellation annexed to Knox's History of the Reformation, p. 22.

“Ye are bound to remove from honor, and to PUNISH WITH DEATH, (if the crime so require,) such as deceive the people, or defraud them of that food of their souls, I mean God's lively word.”—Idem. p. 10.

“It is not only lawful to punish to the death, such as labor to subvert the true religion; but the magistrates and people are bound to do so, unless they will provoke the wrath of God against themselves.”—Idem. p. 25.

It appears by one of the above extracts, that there are three descriptions of persons who are authorized to punish “even unto the death,” the crimes specified.

1. Kings and rulers of the people.

2. The whole body of the people.

3. Every member of the people, that is, by fair construction, that every member of the congregation had a right to punish idolatry, blasphemy, &c. with death.

I most earnestly request all men of candor to weigh well the inferences fairly deducible from these positions of John Knox. “The whole body of the people,” and “every member of the same,” are authorized “to punish with death idolatry and blasphemy, and other crimes that touch the majesty of God.” According to this doctrine, not unduly strained beyond its fair import, the Charlestown mob, as a portion of “the whole people,” were authorized to put to death as “idolaters and blasphemers,” the superior of the Convent and all the Nuns therein. Hence, instead of censuring them for the destruction of the building,

4. “Of him, (Servetus) Bucer, that faithful minister of Christ, of holy memory, declared from the pulpit, though of a mild disposition, that he ought to be torn to pieces.”—Calvin to Sulzerius. (10)

5. “In my opinion, the Geneva Senate has done right in capitally punishing a pertinacious blasphemer. not likely to leave off his blasphemies: and I am surprised that any person should censure this severity.”—Bullinger to Calvin. (11)

6. “I affirm that your magistrates have acted justly in executing a blasphemer duly convicted.”—Melancthon to Calvin. (12)

(10) “Is (Servetus) est de quo fidelis Christi minister, et sanctæ memoriæ, D. Bucer, cum alioqui mausuetto esset ingenio, pro suggestu pronunciauit, dignum esse, qui *avulsis visceribus discerperetur.*”—Idem p. 293.

(11) “Judico etiam senatum Geneensem rectè fecisse, quod hominem pertinacem et blasphemias non omisurum, sustulit. Ac miratus sum, esse qui severitatem illam improbant.”—Idem p. 400.

(12) “Affirmo etiam vestros magistratus justè fecisse, quod hominem blasphemum re ordine judicata, interfecerunt.”—Idem, p. 341.

they are deserving of high commendation for their lenity in warning these idolatrous females to take to flight!

There is a large latitude of construction given as to what is blasphemy, and the other crimes that "touch the majesty of God." And let it be observed, that Protestant Episcopacy was regarded as hardly less abominable than "popery," and as "a subversion of the true religion;" as clearly appears from the tenor of the solemn league and covenant, which the Calvinists imposed on the English and Scotch in 1643. The subscribers "bound themselves to endeavour, without respect of persons, the extirpation of popery, PRELACY, [that is, protestant episcopacy] superstition, heresy, schism and profaneness."—Hume's England, Phila. Ed. vol. III. 607

A Calvinistic convention, held contemporaneously in Scotland, "in the height of their zeal, ordered every one to sign this covenant, under the penalty of confiscation; besides what farther punishment it should please the ensuing parliament to inflict on the refusers, as enemies to God, to the king, and the kingdom."—Idem p. 608.

In 1645, the Long Parliament, in which the Presbyterians had then the ascendancy, passed an ordinance, whereby "Any person using the book of Common Prayer, forfeited for the first offence, five pounds; for the second, ten; and for the third, suffered imprisonment." "All Common Prayer Books, in churches and chapels, were ordered to be brought to the Committee, within a month, under the forfeiture of forty shillings for each book."—Rushworth, vol. 6, p. 207.

So much for Calvinistic toleration. With these damning facts, and those in the preceding pages before their faces, how dare the Rev. Professor of Theology or his friends, cry out aloud, and make the welkin ring with their awful denunciations of Roman Catholic intolerance and persecution?

V. Lutherans.

I now proceed to detail a few of the extravagant doctrines of Luther, the father of the reformation. By some of these doctrines, *God is made the author of sin*; man, in some cases, *a slave of the devil*; *free-will, a horse*, for the mastery of which, God and the devil are contending. When the devil gains the ascendancy, the horse rides post haste to hell.*

"If we punish thieves with the gallows, highwaymen by the sword, and heretics by fire, why should we not, with every kind of arms, attack those magistrates of perdition, those Cardinals, those Popes, and all that sink of Sodom, which without end corrupts the Church; and *wash our hands in their blood, to rescue us and ours, as from a most dangerous conflagration.*"¹

"This is the highest degree of faith, to believe him [God] to be merciful who saves so few, and damns so many; to believe him just, who by his own will renders

1. "Si fures furcâ; si latrones gladio; si Hæreticos igne plectimus, cur non magis hos Magistros perditionis, hos Cardinales, hos Papas, et totam istam Romanæ Sodomæ colluviem, quæ Ecclesiam Dei sine fine corrumpit, omnibus armis impetimus, et manus nostras in sanguine istorum lavamus, tanquam a communi et omnium periculosissimo incendio nos nostrasque liberaturi."—Opera Lutheri Jenæ 1556, tom i. p. 71 b.

* "Before commencing the perusal of these extracts, it is proper that the reader should be informed that the edition cited, was published at Jena, in 1556-7—that it is paged only on the right hand, the left hand pages not being marked—and therefore the reference 176, a. means the right hand page, and 176, b. the page on the reverse; and so of all the others. Any person desirous of collating the translation with the original, may have access to the work itself at No. 116 Walnut street, at any time for three weeks to come, from 7 till 11, A. M., and from 3 to 6, P. M. As the subject and language are in some places mystified, and hardly intelligible, the translation cannot be literal; but if there be errors, it is believed they are few and unimportant.

us necessarily liable to damnation; so that it would seem, according to Erasmus, that *he delights in the torments of the miserable, and that he is more worthy of hatred than of love.* If therefore I were able, by any means, to comprehend in what way God is merciful and just, who displays so much anger and injustice, it would not be the work of faith." 2.

"But in relation to God, whether as respects things appertaining to salvation or damnation, man does not possess free will; but *is a captive, subject, and slave either of the will of God, or the will of the devil.*" 3.

"Although God does not cause [make] sin, yet he does not cease to create [human] nature, vitiated by the abstraction of the spirit; as if a carpenter were to make statues out of rotten wood. Thus, God creating and forming them of such a nature, such as is their nature, such they become." 4.

"Since, therefore, God does and moves all in all, he necessarily moves and acts in Satan and the impious. But he acts in them according to what they are, and to what he finds them; that is, as they are themselves perverse and wicked, and are carried along by that impulse of divine omnipotence, they perform only perverse and wicked actions." 5.

"But if you are pleased with God crowning the unworthy, you ought not to be displeased with him condemning those not deserving [of condemnation:] If he is there just, why not just here—there dispensing grace and mercy to the unworthy; here dispensing wrath and severity to those not deserving of them—on both sides in excess, and unjust towards men, but just and true towards himself." 6.

"By the light of grace it appears inexplicable, why God condemns him who cannot by his utmost efforts do other than sin and be culpable! Here the light of nature and the light of grace dictate that *it is not the fault of unhappy man, but of an unjust God; nor can they judge otherwise of God, who gratuitously crowns an impious man destitute of merits; and does not crown, but damn another man, perhaps less, or at all events not more impious.*" 7.

"I was extremely desirous to understand Paul in his Epistle to the Romans; but was hitherto deterred, not by any faint-heartedness, but by one single expression in the first Chapter, viz:—*therein is the righteousness of God revealed;* for I hated that word, *the righteousness of God;* because by the use and custom of all the learned, I had been taught to understand it of that formal and active righteousness, by which God is righteous, and punishes sinners and the unrighteous. Now, knowing myself, though I lived a monk of an irreproachable life, to be in the sight of God, a sinner, and of a most inquiet conscience, not having any hopes of appeasing him with my own satisfaction, *I did not love, nay I HATED THIS RIGHTEOUS GOD,* who punishes sinners; and with vehement murmuring, if not with silent blasphemy, I was angry with God, and said, as if it were not enough for miserable sinners, who were lost to all eternity by original sin, to suffer all manner of calamity by the law of the decalogue, unless God by the Gospel,

2. "*Hic est fidei summus gradus, credere illum esse clementem, qui tam paucos salvat, tam multos damnat; credere justum, qui sua voluntate nos necessario damnabiles facit;* ut videatur, referente Erasmo, DELECTARI CRUCIATIBUS MISERORUM, & odio potius quam amore dignus. Si igitur possem ulla ratione comprehendere, quomodo *is Deus sit misericors & justus, cui tantam iram & iniquitatem ostendit, non esset opus fidei.*"—Idem, tom. iii. p. 176. *b*

3. "*Cæterum erga Deum, vel in rebus, quæ pertinent ad salutem vel damnationem, non habet liberum arbitrium, sed captivus, subjectus, & servus est vel voluntatis Dei, vel voluntatis Satanae.*"—p. 178. *a*

4. "*Licet enim Deus peccatum non faciat, tamen naturam peccato, subtracto spiritu, vitiatam, non cessat formare & multiplicare; tanquam si faber ex ligno corrupto statuas faciat. Ita qualis est natura, tales fiunt homines, Deo creante & formante illos ex natura tali.*"—p. 205. *a*

5. "*Quando ergo Deus omnia in omnibus movet & agit, necessario movet etiam & agit in Satana & impio. Agit autem in illis taliter, quales illi sunt, & quales inventi; hoc est, cum illi sint aversi & mali, & rapiantur motu illo divinæ omnipotentiae, non nisi aversa & mala faciunt.*"—p. 205. *b*

6. "*At si placet tibi Deus indignos coronans, non debet etiam displicere immeritos damnans. Si illic justus est, cur non hic justus erit? Illic gratiam & misericordiam spargit in indignos; hic iram & sceleritatem spargit in immeritos, utrobique NUMIUS & INIQUUS apud homines, sed justus & verax apud seipsum.*"—p. 213. *b*

7. "*In lumine gratiæ est insolubile, quo modo Deus damnet eum, qui non potest ullis suis viribus aliud facere, quam peccare & reus esse. Hic tam lumen naturæ quam lumen gratiæ dictant, culpam esse, non MISERI HOMINIS SED INIQUI DEI. Nec enim aliud judicare possunt de Deo, qui hominem inpium gratis sine meritis, coronat, & alium non coronat, sed damnat, forte minus, vel saltem non magis impium.*"—p. 237. *a*

adds sorrow to sorrow, and even by the Gospel threatens us with his justice and anger. Thus did I rage with a fretted and disordered conscience." 7.

"If God foresaw that Judas would be a traitor, Judas of necessity became a traitor. Neither was it in his power, nor the power of any other creature to do otherwise, or change his will." 8.

"The human will is placed in the middle just like a horse. If God sits on him, he wills and goes whither God wills—as the psalmist says: I am made a beast and always with thee. If Satan sits on him, he wills and goes whither Satan wills. Nor is it in his power to make enquiry of either rider—but the riders strive for the acquisition and possession of him." 9.

Suppose the Lutherans of the present day were made answerable for all those extraordinary doctrines, and in spite of their repeated disclaimers, that the charge were renewed from year to year, would not every fair and honorable man cry shame on those guilty of the unworthy conduct? But I once more, and for the last time, ask is not this the odious course pursued towards the Roman Catholics?



Wonder is expressed at the outrageous proceedings at Charlestown. This is absurd. Such an outrage was the natural effect of a very adequate cause. When probably a dozen of the so-styled religious papers have been for years sedulously employed in exciting the hellish passions of our nature against the Roman Catholics, such a result was to be expected. Man is an inflammable animal. He is easily excited, especially to mischief. When once, by the instigation of those whom he regards as oracles, let loose from the bonds of religion and law, his fury is demoniac, and mocks at the dictates of reason and justice. History is full of examples of the tremendous results.

And the outrage is indirectly recommended by the Westminster Confession of Faith, as declared in the exposition of that document by Fisher and Erskine, in which scripture is quoted to justify the destruction of Roman Catholic altars and images.

If it was right and proper to destroy the Roman Catholic altars and their furniture in 1650, it is certainly equally right and proper to do so now; and the culprits, it thus appears, can appeal to high authority for their outrageous proceedings.

7. "Miro certo ardore captus fueram, cognoscendi Pauli, in Epistola ad Rom. Sed obstiterat hactenus, non frigidus circum præcordia sanguis, sed unicum vocabulum, quod est, "Justicia Dei revelatur in illo." Oderam enim vocabulum istud, "Justicia Dei;" quod usu et consuetudine omnium doctorum, doctus eram philosophice intelligere de justicia (ut vocant) formali seu activa, qua Deus est justus, et peccatores injustosque punit.

"Ego autem, qui me utcumque irreprehensibilis monachus vivebam, sentirem coram Deo esse peccatorem inquietissimæ conscientiæ, nec mea satisfactione placatum considerare possem. *Non anabam, imo odiebam JUSTUM ET PUNIENTEM PECCATORES DEUM;* tacitæque si non blasphemia, certe ingenti murmuratione indignabar Deo, dicens, "Quasi vero non satis sit miseros peccatores et æternaliter perditos peccato originali, omni genere calamitatis oppressos esse per legem decalogi, nisi Deus per evangelium dolorem dolori adderet; et etiam per evangelium nobis justiciam et iram suam intentaret." Furebam ita sævâ et perturbatâ conscientia."—*Tom. 1. Prefat. sub fine.*

8. "Si præcivit Dens, Judam fore proditorem, necessario Judas fiebat proditor; nec erat in manu Judæ aut ullius creaturæ, aliter facere aut voluntatem mutare."—*Tom. 3. p. 207.—b.*

9. "Sic humana voluntas in medio posita est, cen jumentum; si insederit Deus, vult et vadit quo vult Deus, ut Psalmus dicit: "Factus sum sicut jumentum, et ego semper tecum." Si insederit Satan, vult et vadit quo vult Satan; nec est in ejus arbitrio ad utrum sessorem currere, aut enim quærere; sed ipsi sessores certant ob ipsum obtinendum et possidendum."—p. 177.—b.

The quotation, it is true, refers to "altars and images;" but when altars and images were destroyed, the convents, and churches, and cathedrals shared the same fate.*

This has been styled the age of illumination, and "*the march of mind*" has been highly celebrated with "Io pæans." But with some persons, mind marches with leaden heels. The Rev. Dr. Miller, in his old age, instead of the divine employment of preaching "peace and good will to man on earth," devotes his time and his talents to the hideous purpose of holding his unoffending fellow-citizens not merely to the execration, but to the personal violence of the populace; for if they be really "enemies of God and man," and requiring "to be watched as highwaymen and assassins," they ought to be exterminated. The Rev. Mr Brownlee and Dr. Cox write large volumes of abuse against the peaceable, and harmless, and exemplary Quakers, whom they will not allow to be Christians, but who carry into operation the morality of the gospel as completely as any other denomination of Christians that ever existed. And a steady warfare is carried on between the Presbyterians and Episcopalians, and between the various denominations of Presbyterians. To cap the climax of "*the march of mind*," the Earl of Winchelsea, in the English House of Lords, declaims most violently against the bill for removing the disabilities of the Jews, which he calls "offering an insult to the Almighty," and the bill is rejected in that house by a considerable majority!! So much for the boasted 19th century.



To guard against unmerited censure, it may be proper to state the object I had in view in the production of this pamphlet. I am not the assailant. I merely repel gross and outrageous assault. My object has been to prove that all, or nearly all, the denominations of Christians, have egregiously erred in their career, under the influence of heat, passion, enthusiasm, inordinate and mistaken zeal, or arrogant reliance on their own opinions; that, of course, no one has a chartered privilege to assail or abuse another; that they ought to practice mutual forgiveness, and cultivate harmony with each other according to the sacred injunctions:—

"Agree with thine adversary quickly."—Matt. 5. 25. "Have peace one with another."—Mark ix. 50. "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you live peaceably with all men."—Rom. xii. 18.

* "Warrants to that purpose [destroying altars, &c.] were issued to the Earls of Arrane, Arguile, and Glancarne, the Lord James Stewart, &c. Whereupon followed a pitiful devastation of churches and church buildings in all parts of the realm; no difference made, but all religious edifices of what sort soever, were either terribly defaced, or utterly ruined."—Heylin's history of the Presbyterians, p. 143.

"Preachers frequently cried out, that the places where idols had been worshipped, ought by the law of God, to be destroyed—that the sparing of them was the reserving of things execrable; and that the commandment given to Israel for destroying the places where the Canaanites did worship their false Gods, was a just warrant to the people for doing the like. By which encouragements the madness of the people was transported beyond the bounds which they had at first prescribed unto it. In the beginning of the heats, they designed only the destruction of Religious Houses, for fear the Monks and Friars might otherwise be restored in time to their former dwellings. But they proceeded to the demolishing of Cathedral Churches, and ended in the ruin of parochial also; the chancels whereof were sure to be levelled in all places, though the isles and bodies of them might be spared in some."—Ibid.

I now leave the case to the impartial judgment of an enlightened community, TO DECIDE BETWEEN THEIR ROMAN CATHOLIC FELLOW-CITIZENS, AND THE REV. SAMUEL MILLER, D. D., PROFESSOR OF ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY AND CHURCH GOVERNMENT, IN THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY. We desire that they should judge us, as honour and justice demand, and as all other denominations are judged, not by the odious, partial, unjust, and envenomed calumnies of our deadly and inveterate enemies; but by the principles taught in our pulpits, our catechisms, and our professions of faith,—and by the uniform tenor of our lives, in all the social relations, whether as citizens, as fathers, as husbands, as brothers, or as sons—in all of which important relations, we challenge comparison with the most self-justified, ultra-zealots among our virulent persecutors, who, in the plenitude of their sanctimonious purity and holiness, pharisaically desire us “to stand off,” as unfit “to touch the hem of their garments”—and presumptuously denounce us as on a par with “highwaymen and assassins,” and as “enemies to God and Man.” “They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent—adders’ poison is under their lips.”—Psalms cxl. 3.

A CATHOLIC LAYMAN.

Philadelphia, Oct. 1, 1834.

APPENDIX.

In the year 1788, a committee of the English Catholics waited on Mr. Pitt, respecting their application for a repeal of the Penal Laws. He requested to be furnished with authentic evidence of the opinions of the Roman Catholic clergy and the Roman Catholic universities abroad, “on the existence and extent of the Pope’s dispensing power.” Three questions were accordingly framed, and sent to the Universities of Paris, Louvain, Alcalá, Doway, Salamanca, and Valladolid, for their opinions. The questions proposed to them were: “1. Has the Pope or Cardinals, or any body of men, or any individual of the Church of Rome, any civil authority, power, jurisdiction, or pre-eminence whatsoever, within the realm of England? 2. Can the Pope or Cardinals, or any body of men, or any individual of the Church of Rome, absolve or dispense with His Majesty’s subjects from their oaths of allegiance, upon any pretext whatsoever? 3. If there is any principle in the tenets of the Catholic Faith, by which Catholics are justified in not keeping faith with heretics, or other persons differing from them in religious opinions, in any transaction, either of a public or private nature?”

The Universities answered unanimously: “1. That the Pope or Cardinals or any body of men, or any individual of the Church of Rome, has not any civil authority, power, jurisdiction, or pre-eminence whatsoever, within the realm of England. 2. That the Pope or Cardinals, or any body of men, or any individual of the Church of Rome, cannot absolve or dispense His Majesty’s subjects from their oath of allegiance, upon any pretext whatsoever. 3. That there is no principle in the tenets of the Catholic Faith, by which Catholics are justified in not keeping faith with heretics, or other persons differing from them in religious opinions, in any transactions either of a public or a private nature.” As soon as the opinions of the foreign Universities were received, they were transmitted to Mr. Pitt.

A few years since an exposition of the doctrine of the Roman Catholics, on all the points on which they were accused, was drawn up by the Bishops, the vicars apostolical, and their coadjutors in Great Britain. It extended to eleven articles, of which I annex the two most important, not having space for more. It was signed by the Roman Catholic nobility, and a large portion of the gentry, some of whose names are subjoined.

“ On keeping faith with Heretics.

“ Catholics are charged with holding the principle, *that they are not bound to keep faith with Heretics.*

“ As Catholics, we hold and we declare, that all Catholics are bound by the law of nature, and the law of revealed religion, to observe the duties of fidelity and justice to all men, without any exception of persons, and without any distinction of nation or religion.

“ British Catholics have solemnly sworn, that “ they reject and detest the unchristian and impious principle, that faith is not to be kept with heretics or infidels.”

“ On the obligation of an Oath.

“ Catholics are charged with holding *that they are not bound by any oath, and that the Pope can dispense them from all the oaths they may have taken.*


“ We cannot sufficiently express our astonishment at such a charge. We hold that the obligation of an oath is most sacred: for by an oath man calls the Almighty searcher of hearts to witness the sincerity of his conviction of the truth of what he asserts; and his fidelity in performing the engagement he makes. Hence, whosoever swears falsely, or violates the lawful engagement he has confirmed by an oath, not only offends against truth, or justice, but against religion. He is guilty of the enormous crime of perjury.

“ No power in any Pope, or council, or in any individual or body of men, invested with authority in the Catholic church, can make it lawful for a Catholic to confirm any falsehood by an oath; or dispense with an oath, by which a Catholic has confirmed his duty of allegiance to his sovereign, or any obligation of duty or justice to a third person. He who takes an oath is bound to observe it, in the obvious meaning of the words, or in the known meaning of the person to whom it is sworn.

“ The Pope can never grant any dispensation to the injury of any third person, and can never allow any one to do what is unjust, or *to say what he knows to be false, whatever advantage might be expected from it.*”

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