

MORNING STAR AND CATHOLIC MESSENGER.

NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1869.

Protestantism Destructive of Christianity.

This is a startling announcement to many, and no doubt will be placed to the account of a heated controversialist, who, anxious for victory, precipitately asserts what reason and demonstration fail to verify. But the statement comes from a Protestant minister—Dr. Ever—

who, from long experience, serious consideration, and mature study, thus deliberately comes to the conclusion contained in the sentence forming the heading of this article:

The cry of the Protestant is, "I want no visible Church; I want nothing of the kind to come in between me and God; I want no rails at chancery; I want no communion-table shut up in an apartment by itself; bring it down into the congregation; your whole visible scheme of intermediation is in the way; it is impertinent; I can and will go direct to God myself without your cumbersome churchy machinery; I want no set lessons from Scripture selected for my contemplation on set days; I can select for myself; I want no days set apart by the Church, in which I must meditate on certain truths; I can think of any of those truths at any time" And so, Protestantism, borne on by its spirit of liberty, so-called, clears away the whole. You can go direct to God, indeed, Mr. Protestant? Our scheme of visible intermediation is in the way and impertinent! Ah, brethren, do you not see that this strikes at the principle of any mediation whatever? By such assertions Protestantism yields the vital principle itself to Rationalism, and it is not at all strange that, in the hands of such giants as Beecher, Channing, and Parker, the Protestant mind should slowly sink into avowed Rationalism. Here is the explanation of the fact, that thousands of young and middle-aged men—sons and grandsons of the old-fashioned Protestants, are either secret doubters or avowed skeptics; and that our very churches are crowded with semi-deists, who chafe under any preaching save the preaching of glittering generalities about moral and natural goodness. The facts, in abandoning God's visible Church Catholic, Protestants have abandoned the vital outwork of the doctrine of mediation—the sole defence of that doctrine; and with the outwork gone, the city itself falls. It is fatal to touch that in the Church Visible which is harmonious with, and which expresses and conserves the great truth of the mediation. Try, now, the effect of the destruction of the outwork or bulwark of the priesthood of Christianity, the second great spiritual fact of the Visible Church Catholic, and you equally expose the spiritual fact of the priesthood of Christ. And thus laid bare and unprotected, it also falls before the attacks of Rationalism. Let us look at this a little.

The Protestant cry is: "There is no such thing as a visible priesthood on earth;" the ministry need not originate from the Apostles alone, and come down in the regular succession which the Catholics claim. It originates as well from the people, in whom primarily its powers are lodged: in other words, as a recent writer says, "the people, and not the Apostles are the ultimate source of ecclesiastical and ministerial power;" the Christian ministry, according to the Protestant cry, "are not a distinct order of men, and hence there is no such thing as a Christian priesthood as a distinction from the people at large." "Every man his own priest to God," is the popular cry. Every man his own priest to God, indeed, Mr. Protestant? Nothing between God and man? Ah, beloved, do you not perceive that Protestantism, though it may not yield all at once the naked fact of the spiritual priesthood of Christ, has, after all, by this fatal step, yielded the principle of any priesthood whatever? Do you not see that with the vital principle gone, with the practical denial of the principle rooted in their minds, the mere intellectual notion of Christ's priesthood which they still retain for a while, has been undermined, and will sooner or later fall, if not in the first generation, then in the second, third or fourth? It must logically fall, and, alas, it does fall practically. It will not do to tamper with that fundamental feature of God's Church, namely, the Apostolic Ministry. It will not do to raise to a level with the ministry whose ultimate source of authority is laymen or unauthorized Presbyters, instead of the holy Apostles. Forging the fountain cannot rise higher than its spring; the rearing of such a man-made ministry is the breaking down of all ministry to a level with laymen; and this is simply, and solely, and logically a blow at the cherished priesthood of Christ itself. A similar course of remark might be made on the government of the Church, which is the visible expression on earth of the spiritual truth of the royalty of Christ, and which is the school in which God in His wisdom has set us, that we may learn, and not lose the knowledge of that prime fact. And a similar course of remark might be made on the Blessed Eucharist, as the conservator of the fact of the Sacrifice of Christ. But enough has been said to show how Protestantism is logically destructive of Christianity. Think of the millions it has drawn away from Christ! Think how it has sapped the foundations of Christianity! My friends, these are words not calculated to be popular. But they are words that need to be spoken. When some poor bewildered mind goes over to Rome, some churchmen roll up eyes of holy horror. But they forget the vastly more serious events that are taking place in the opposite direction.

We are not so much in danger of superstition as we are of skepticism. I would have you repeat it to your friends, viz: That those exceptional cases that have gone over to Rome, are as a single star to all the myriads of stars, in comparison with the thousands who have fallen innocently and unconsciously into the fatal drift of Protestantism, and been sucked down at last into the rushing whirl of Unitarianism, and the dreadful vortex of Infidelity. As I make this assertion, you will not understand me as saying that it is the first generation which passes out of the Church into Protestantism, that runs this entire career into Rationalism. It is only here and there that you find a person with brain enough to pass the entire distance from the top to the bottom of the entire slope. I could point you to one whom we all know by reputation, who started as a high Presbyterian, and has now reached the point of low Congregationalism, which is but a shade above high Unitarianism. And then I could point you to another, now dead, whose fame was world-wide, that started as a young man at the point of high Unitarianism, and ran the rest of the logical career into Rationalism. Such, I say, are rare cases. Nay, it is, in general, only successive generations that run the full career. The mass of mind moves slowly down a logical slope. But man is logical, and the mass of mind moves surely and inevitably. The Methodists, as a body, have already, in one hundred years, moved too far down the slope, and gathered too much momentum, ever to come back to the Catholic summit of the hill. Individuals may get back, but as a body Methodism is doomed. When, beloved, a mother leaving our Church goes to Presbyterianism,

she thinks she is merely exchanging one form of Christianity for another; that it is, to all intents and purposes, a venial, a harmless change. She has no idea that she has leaped the immense gulf that lies between Christianity and incipient Rationalism. But when she has taken the step, what has she done? She has done all she can to give her children a heritage of Congregationalism, her grandchildren a heritage of Unitarianism, and her great-grandchildren a heritage of Infidelity. There are great warnings against Rome. Well, Rome is an evil. But it is time the solemn word was spoken, and spoken boldly, of warning against the far worse evil of Protestantism. It is time men understood that Protestantism is an awful and most dangerous heresy.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Numerical poison—Strychnine. Text-ile fabrics—Sermons. Sharp practice—Shaving. A Baptist constellation—The dipper. An auctioneer's epitaph—"Gone." Bad motto for a long journey—"Take care. Things that come home to us—Butchers' bills. The corner stone of reform in England—Gladstone.

The greatest Marriage Settlement in the world—Utah. Which State contains the happiest people? Merryland.

The great financial question—Have you any money? By a horrid old bachelor—A screaming farce—a baby.

A Hair Dresser's motto—Two heads (of hair) are better than one. What sort of a drum is best when it cannot be beaten? A conundrum. Dentists are favored with more open communications than any other class of people.

Why shouldn't women be physicians, since all doctor's are fee-males. If the good all die early, why are the bad like the pupil of an eye? Because they dilate. Example of the "Ups and downs of life."—Being hard up, and, consequently, cast down.

When ought a man to be best acquainted with his own actions? When he's beside himself. The Hindoos extend their hospitality to their enemies, saying: "The tree does not withdraw its shade even from the wood-cutter."

A wag lent a clergyman a horse, which ran away and threw him, and then claimed credit for "aid in spreading the gospel."

An old lady, hearing of a pedestrian's "great feat," wondered why they didn't interfere with his fast walking.

The young man who asked the daughter's hand and got the father's foot, had the consolation of knowing that his wooing was not bootless.

Leigh Hunt was asked by a lady, at a desert, if he would not venture on an orange. "Madam, I should be happy to do so, but I am afraid I should tumble off."

A grave old man told his son that if he did not grow less dissipated he would shorten his days. "Then dad," said the boy, "I shall lengthen my nights."

"I am just in time for dinner," said Lord Noodle, "if the clocks agree." "How can they agree," rejoined a friend, "since they are always striking."

"What brought you to prison, my colored friend?" "Two constables, sah." "Yes, but I mean had intemperance anything to do with it?" "Yes, sah, dey was bofe ob 'em drunk."

An aged Quakeress was seen gazing very intently on a piece of brocaded silk displayed in a linen draper's window. A cockney passer-by observed that it was "Satin tempting Eve."

A Shining Character—"My character," said an alderman, who had cleared himself on a charge of jobbery, "my character, sir, is like my beetle, all the brighter for blacking."

A bachelor sea captain remarked one day that he wanted a good chief officer, and was informed by a young lady that she had no objection to be his first mate. He took the hint—and the lady.

A whimsical comparison having been made between a clock and a woman, Charles Fox observed that he thought the simile bad, "for," said he, "a clock serves to point out the hours, and a woman to make us forget them."

"Oh, Mary, my heart is breaking!" "Is it indeed, Mr. Closefit?" "So much the better for you," "Why, my idol?" "Because when it's broken out and out, you may sell the pieces for gunflints."

Safe Offer—An eminent journalist has offered a reward of one thousand dollars for a tale that will make his hair stand on end. Before ambitious authors enter the field, it may be as well to know that the journalist is perfectly bald.

A rather fast youth, in relating an account of his voyage across the ocean to a sympathizing friend, says: "There's one good thing about it, though; you can get as tight as you please every day, and they'll think you're sea sick."

A countryman went into a drug store a few days ago, and asked for two pounds of opium. So large a quantity excited the suspicion of the druggist, and he inquired what it was to be used for. The verdant replied to stop cracks in his cart. He was advised to get some oakum.

A lady went out with her little girl and boy, and purchased the latter an india rubber balloon, which escaped him, and went up into the air. The little girl, seeing the tears in her brother's eyes, said, "Never mind, Neddie, when you die and go to heaven you'll dit it."

A young lady who prided herself on her geography, seeing a candle alight, remarked that it reminded her of the "Leaning Tower of Pisa." "Yes," responded a wag, "with this difference—that is a tower in Italy, while this is a tower in grease."

False Encouragement.—A visitor to a prison asked a prisoner why he had been sent there. "For false encouragement," was the reply. "For false encouragement! What do you mean?" "Why, I encouraged one hundred and forty-three women to believe that I was going to marry them."

A Scotch minister, it is reported, went into his pulpit once in the olden time slightly obfuscated, and leaned over the preacher's desk (below the pulpit) saying, "Give out the 256th Psalm." "There be'ant so many," said the preacher, wizen-faced and savage. "Then sing so many as there be."

An old carpenter, who had been employed at job work by an old lady, was asked why people of his trade always charged more in proportion for coffins than they did for chairs and tables. "Well, you see, ma'am, it's just because people won't bring their coffins back to us to be repaired."

A clergyman says it is curious to note how many people attend the circus "only because they want to please the children;" but still more curious to observe that in many instances it takes two or three able-bodied men, with as many women, to look after one or two little girls and boys.

The Irish Lord Chancellorship.—The party so long dominant in Ireland are in great consternation at the idea of a Catholic holding this high office. But seeing the thing is inevitable, they would like to compound the matter by having appointed some one whose religious views sit lightly upon his conscience, such as Keogh, for instance, although he is not named. But O'Hagan is decidedly too conscientious a man to meet the views of the Tory bigots who have so long governed with a high hand. Mr. Gladstone is gently remonstrated with, and advised as follows:

If a Roman Catholic Chancellor we are to have, let him be selected from the large circle of able and liberal-minded men in whom all Irishmen can equally confide. There can be no possible excuse for unnecessarily irritating and alarming the powerful Protestant element in Ireland by accompanying the demolition of their Church with the elevation of a Chancellor whose sympathies are monastic and narrow, whose amiable nature is darkened by the stern enthusiasm of the cloister, and who is accepted, rightly or wrongly, as the type of Catholic Quixotism sitting at the feet of a Cardinal, and in all things listening to the whispers of the confessional. Any such selection, at such a crisis, would be a challenge and an alarm. It would aggravate all the inflammatory symptoms of the crisis.

Divorce in Rhode Island.—By way of illustrating the state of morals in Rhode Island, a New York paper gives the following:

During the late session of the General P. E. Convention in this city, the subject of prohibiting the marriage of divorced people being under consideration, a Bishop said that in Rhode Island divorces were obtained for such slight causes as to imperil the morals of the whole community, and that men actually sold their wives, mentioning an instance of a man selling his wife for \$10,000. "Are such transactions common in your diocese?" asked a brother Bishop. "Not at that price," promptly responded the Bishop.

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TWISTED FOOT STITCH SILENT  
FAMILY SEWING MACHINE.

Always in order and ready to sew. Such is its simplicity, and the ease with which it is understood, that the child of six years and the grandmother of seventy can operate it successfully. The thread is used from the original spool without rewinding. Every Machine is furnished with Needle, Foot and Braider. All the different first-class Sewing Machines for sale. Sloan's celebrated Elliptic and the Howe Sewing Machine—the first invented, the one from which all others take their origin. All kinds of Machines repaired. Needles, Silk, Thread and Oil for all kinds of Machines. Machines can be sent by Express, with the bill to be collected on delivery of Machine. All Machines warranted at the Great Southern Sewing Machine and Variety Store, 118 Canal St., New Orleans. Agents wanted. [de6 3m] New Orleans.

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Is the best Sewing Machine ever offered to the public. It is simple and elegant, and easy to be used. It does all the work of the best Sewing Machine. It is the only Machine ever invented that embroiders with the Lock-Stitch, and an account of its adjustable foot has a greater range of work than any other. It is used almost exclusively by all the Lady Milliners and in all the Convents of this city, and it has the greatest circulation of any Machine in the world. I warrant every Machine I sell to give satisfaction, and after a fair trial to return the money if it does not do so. JOHN McNULTY, 7 Camp Street, New Orleans.

Wholesale and Retail Agency for Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Alabama, and agent for George Clark's Celebrated NEW THREAD. Sewing Machine Twist and Flax Thread, of the best quality, for Dress Makers, Tailors and Saddlers, constantly on hand. n15 3m

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New York prices for Splendid GROVER & BAKER SEWING MACHINES, at the office, 181 Canal Street. Machine warranted five years. Hemmers, Quilter, Tucker and Braider given with every Machine n22 3m

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Depot for  
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Particular attention paid to Tuning and Repairing. Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere, and convince yourselves that we offer the best bargains. de29 1f

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Whist Chickering and Steinway sent their Pianos to the Paris Exposition, where both got a Medal, and are now quarreling as to which is the right one. Weber remained at home, manufacturing his Superior Pianos, knowing that the people of New Orleans, in selecting a Good Instrument, do not look for gold medals.  
My friends and strangers are invited to examine these Splendid Instruments, which I pronounce emphatically THE BEST NOW MADE.

This assertion is not made from bombastic motives, but after a careful and close examination I am sincerely convinced of their superiority; and I challenge any other Piano, with or without gold medals, when placed side by side to a WEBER, to excel in Power, Sweetness, Brilliance, Perfect Equality of Tone, Elasticity of Touch, and Great Durability. For sale by  
THEODORE LA ROCHE,  
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Corner of Franklin and Perdido streets,  
Keeps constantly on hand a Choice Assortment of  
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Particular attention given to the selection of Fine TEAS and BUTTER. Goods delivered in all parts of the city free of charge. Orders solicited and punctually attended to. de29 3m

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Steamboats and families supplied. n22 3m

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Dealers in PORK, BACON, HAMS, LARD, FLOUR and BULK MEATS of All Kinds.  
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At Victoria we make no extra charge for receiving and forwarding, and will pay Railroad Freight and charges on all consignments to us for sale or shipment. jv8 1f

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WM. MCCULLOCH, Manager.

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Come early and often. de6 1f

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The advantages of our improved Brazilian Pebble Spectacles have been fully tested by the most scientific men of both Europe and America, and approved as the best spectacles now known for the preservation of the impaired vision.  
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4. Should the number of members exceed five thousand the assessment of \$1 25 will be reduced in proportion to the number of members exceeding five thousand.  
5. Should any member fail to pay the assessment in the time specified, he forfeits all previous payments or credits.  
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