

A CHALLENGE

ANSWERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRUTH SOCIETY

Ably and in an Effective Manner-Spits Malice and Jugglery Its Inception-A Mixture of Doctrine and Discipline and General Ignorance.

International Catholic Truth Society, Brooklyn, N. Y., May 24, 1901.

A "Challenge to the Roman Catholics of America" has been rather freely distributed recently in some of our larger American cities and towns. It offers a most magnificent reward to Catholics, clerical or lay, if they succeed in proving from God's Word certain doctrines taught and practiced according to their notion, in the Church of Rome. Luckily for the opponent donor, the paper is unsigned, and consequently would not merit any recognition whatsoever were it not for the boldness of the assertions, and the extent of the circulation, thus possibly endangering the simple faith of our hard-working Catholics, and planting the poison of bigotry still deeper in the hearts of our separated brethren.

The "Challenge" as it reads, is false to the teachings of Christ and His Apostles, consequently false to God's word. It is, moreover, false to history both Ecclesiastical and Profane, misleading as to the teaching and practices in the Catholic Church, illogical in its make-up, and a conglomerated massing and confuting of doctrine, discipline and what is neither doctrine nor discipline. When the foundation is weak, we must not expect much of the edifice. When the premises to an argument are false and illogical, we cannot hope to abide by the conclusion. Now what is the foundation, what are the premises whereon this ridiculous "Challenge" is built? It is propounded upon the following presumption, that God's Word is wholly and entirely contained in the Bible—that our sole Rule of Faith is the Bible. If we succeed in showing that this theory is unsound, false to Christ's teachings and His Apostles, then our unknown challenger must needs find at least a logical basis for his tirade against the Church of Rome. He seems to have considerable regard for Scripture and the verity of its teachings. Now he will certainly admit that the Bible is a trustworthy book. In it he will find evidence that Christ is a Divine Messenger, and hence men should receive His message with due submission. But how can we receive this message with certainty, since Christ died almost nineteen hundred years ago? What is the sure way of receiving this message unadulterated and faithful to the doctrines of the Divine Message? Chillingworth says: "The Bible, and the Bible only is the religion of Protestants." The Bible then, according to Protestants, must speak of itself. Is this the method Christ desired to have employed in the spreading of His salutary message? There is only one answer to be derived from the New Testament, and that is an emphatic NO. The Saviour taught by word of mouth, and we have no example either of writing being attributed to Him, or of any commission to his followers to adopt this system of teaching eternal truths. Their work during His earthly career is outlined in the tenth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel and in the ninth chapter of St. Luke's.

They are sent to preach, to deliver an oral message and to heal the sick. "And going out they went about through the towns, preaching the Gospel and healing everywhere." Towards the close of the Synoptic Gospels we behold a final commission given to the Apostles. "Going therefore, teach ye all nations: baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." Matt. xxviii. 19-20. "And He said to them: go ye into the whole world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not, shall be condemned." Mark xvi. 15-16. "And that penance and the remission of sins should be preached in His name unto all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke xiv. 47. "You shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts i. 8. It is evident from these and kindred texts that Christ's method for the propagation of His message was oral instruction, preaching, hearing, witness, etc. Note well moreover that the Divine Messenger promised His infallible assistance to the Apostles: "Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world." And He promised also to send them another Paraclete or Comforter that should abide with them forever, to teach them all truth and bring to their minds all things whatsoever the Saviour may have said to them, vide St. John xiv. 15-26. We find then from the Bible, depending upon its trustworthiness as an historical record, that Christ established a teaching-body to make known His salutary truths to all nations even to the uttermost parts of the earth; that He promised his abiding presence in the presence of the Holy Spirit with this Body-Representative as a guarantee against errancy and corruption; that this presence was not merely to extend to the Apostles' life-time, but was to continue with their successors "all days even to the consummation of the world." Matt. xxviii. 20. "And I will ask the Father and He shall give you another Paraclete that He may abide with you forever." St. John xiv. 16. Here it may be well to ask how the Apostles understood Christ's commission? Surely their interpretation will be more authoritative than any ulterior to their time. Chapter after chapter of the Acts of the Apostles bears witness that they understood and carried out the commission of the Messiah in the manner

stated above viz., by oral instruction, preaching-hearing-witness, etc. (See Acts i. 22, 11, 14, 11, 12, 1x, 20, etc.)

Then as to the Epistles or Letters of St. Paul, James, Peter, John, Jude—they are chiefly a supplement to enforce the Apostle's preaching. (e. g., 1 Cor. xi. 2, 11 Cor. xi. 4, Gal. i. 8, Ephes. i. 13, St. James i. 22, 1 St. Peter i. 22, 11 St. Peter i. 20, St. Jude i. 3.) There is but one exception, and this even bears out when we assert that the Bible is not the sole Rule of Faith. It is found in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, verse 14: "Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you have learned, whether by word or by epistle." Furthermore the Apostles commissioned their co-laborers and successors to adhere to this method of oral instruction (vide 1 Tim. iv. 13, vi. 20.) "The things which thou hast heard of me by many witnesses, the same commend to faithful men who shall be fit to teach others also." (2nd Tim. ii. 2.) The Christian Apologists and Fathers of the second century speak in the same strain. Clement of Rome, Irenaeus, Tertullian et al., tell us of the authoritative weight of Tradition as understood in the proper way. Take for instance the words of St. Clement: "Christ was sent from God, the Apostle from Christ... they preached in countries and in towns, and the first fruits of their ministry, having tested them in the power of the Holy Spirit, they appointed to be overseers and ministers to all that would believe." "The Apostles made their appointments and arranged a succession; that when they had fallen asleep, other tried men should carry on their ministry." (Greek Patrology Chap. xiii-xiv. Vol. 1, 292, 298.) Now it seems to us that the Catholic view of the spreading of God's Word has been fairly well explained. Until "Mr. Challenger" succeeds in proving that the Bible, and the Bible alone, is the Rule of Faith, he can hardly expect anyone to bother much about his assertions.

We may, however, beg the reader's pardon for commenting upon the following absurdities: "Romanism" says Hon. Mr. Challenger, "is really a novelty. Protestantism is founded upon eternal truth." Why even profane history will tell you that the Roman Catholic Church was old and hoary before what is called Protestantism was dreamed of. The oldest sect among Protestants is not more than four hundred years old, while the Catholic Church can trace her lineage back to the Apostles themselves. The words are misplaced. Protestantism should be placed in the first clause, Romanism (pardon the objectionable expression) in the second. The "Church Calendar," a Protestant Episcopal organ published in New York city, while objecting to the official title of its church and regarding the same a misnomer, has this to say of up to date Protestantism: "Protestantism carries with it the inherent stigma of weakness, and the implied shame of defeat. And now this name relegates the church in this land to bad company, since it has come to be the common genitificator of all, be they who they may or what they may, who do not own obedience to the Pope of Rome, or follow the law of Moses. A heterogeneous crowd it is, of all shades of opinion, of all varieties of faith, or of no faith, respectable in morals, or lax, or distinctly immoral." (pg. 73 Church Calendar, Art. of Prot. Bishop of Springfield.) The above statement must be regarded by every sincere-minded person as true to the accepted position of Protestantism nowadays. Where, we ask in the name of truth, is the foundation upon Eternal Truth? Which then of the two—Roman Catholicism or Protestantism—is really a novelty—the former, that grand old historic institution built upon Peter, the Rock, or the latter, the Kingdom divided against itself three hundred times?

Again, "Mr. Challenger" is altogether too safe offering to pay \$50.00 to any Roman Catholic who shall produce a text to prove St. Peter had no wife. Roman Catholics do not claim that St. Peter was unmarried; in fact, the second nocturne Lesson of the Breviary for the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, May 6 (which I have recently perused) mentions very positively that St. Peter had a wife. And we know from the sacred text itself that Peter's mother-in-law was sick with fever and was miraculously healed by the Saviour. Besides this, there is in the so-called "Challenge" a frightful jumbling and misrepresentation of Catholic doctrine and Catholic discipline, e. g., the reference to "more mediators than one" that the Virgin Mary can save us. "that the priests ought not to marry," that the wine at the Lord's table ought only to be taken by the priests. The writer of this deceitful and misleading "challenge" should first seek correct information about Catholic belief before he attempts to formulate propositions so utterly false and unfair to the Church which he antagonizes. It is not difficult to read between the lines of this infamous paper and therein discover, not good faith and sincerity, but the triple-headed monster of spite, malice and jugglery with which he may hope in vain to destroy one lot or little of our cherished faith. Last, however, our adversary think that we are opposing him with words and not actions—the latter are far more powerful—we take occasion to add the following: This wonderful defender of Protestantism and slanderer of the Catholic Church, who offers financial rewards, but whose name and address are prudently concealed, attempts to mislead the unwary by giving the dates of decrees of various councils concerning twenty-two Catholic doctrines and practices with the inference that in such years these doctrines were first taught by the Church. Now the International Catholic Truth Society, Arbutuck Building, Brooklyn, N. Y., humbly offers \$500.00 to anyone who will place a similar amount in the hands of any representative gentleman of this city, the loser's money to go to

public charity, such amount to be paid by us if we are unable to prove that each and everyone of the twenty-two doctrines was taught by the Church centuries before the date assigned by the Unknown Challenger.

JOHN J. MAHON, Pro International Catholic Truth Society.

WORDS OF PRAISE

BY A UNITARIAN MINISTER FOR HOLY MOTHER CHURCH.

Ho! Ho! the Catholic Church is to-day Triumphant—She Represents Beautifully Our Democratic Ideals—She is the Conqueror of Nations.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, the well known pastor of All Saints Unitarian church, Chicago, has created a sensation by his recent remarks before the Women's club of that city, to the effect that Catholicity was to be the religion of the future. In the course of his remarks Mr. Jones said:

"The greatest and most wonderful institution of all ages, the Roman Catholic Church, has met and is to-day meeting with success. What is more, the Catholic idea in religion is to-day triumphant. The Roman church has succeeded because it grasped the ideal of Catholicity, of uniformity, of harmony, of oneness. I am not defending that Church as such. Powerful as it is to-day, it will meet its Waterloo, because it harbors within itself the extraneous belief of a creed imposed upon man from without instead of the belief coming from within.

Nevertheless, the Roman church is the greatest social projection ever thrown out of the human heart. It is the only organization in history that has brought together in any such manner diverse races, hostile nations and alien people. It represents beautifully our democratic ideals. Go to-day into a Roman Catholic church and you will see the maid kneeling beside her mistress. In our Protestant communities we have buildings for the rich and missions across the tracks for the poor. There is an air of aristocracy, a something of fine dress, about many Protestant churches which excludes the poor and the ignorant as effectively as if a policeman with a club were stationed at the door.

"The Roman church has always stood for centralization, for combination. Now, in industrial life, men have long come to recognize this. Business men combine and laborers organize unions. But the 600 or 700 clergymen of Chicago to-day are not as well united as the hodcarriers. Each is following his own bent. Instead of this crudely individualistic religious life we had a great organization, how wonderfully powerful it could be. If men would co-operate as heartily for love as they do for greed, what a wonderful force for good their union could wield!

"What has Protestantism done? Well, it has analyzed and re-analyzed and defined once more, until to-day we have seventeen kinds of Methodists, thirteen kinds of Baptists, twelve kinds of Presbyterians and some 350 denominations all told in the United States. This is not merely scandalous; it is imbecile. Every label on religion is a libel. There can be no schism on the multiplication table nor a heresy on the golden rule.

"It is, indeed, true that this splitting up to sectarianism has brought us, or rather forced us, to a spirit of toleration. But toleration is not what we want. In its stead we should have appreciation, a passion for co-operation, a relish for companionship. Yes, a man may believe in Christ as Son of God, or Christ only as a prophet, or he may believe in no God at all. But he can nevertheless, work in harmony with all of us. As the ancient fathers of the Roman Catholic Church grasped the idea of divinity in life, we are getting back to it in the century new opening.

"Now let us see just what this spirit of Catholicism will mean. Here is the definition as given in part in the Century dictionary for 'Catholic,' originally used by the theologians: 'For all parts of the inhabited world; not confined to one race like the Jewish religion.' This signals the true conception which Jesus Himself tried to spread abroad. It is the spirit of broad humanity as against narrowing national, race or creed prejudice.

"Starting with this conception, the Catholic Church gained ground most wonderfully. The Chinese are a great people, and they had their religion long before the popes at Rome existed. But they remained within themselves. The Christian Church, meanwhile spread out, taking in Roman, Teuton, Goth and Vandal."

A K. of C. council was instituted in St. Joseph, Mo., Sunday.

CATHOLIC NOTES

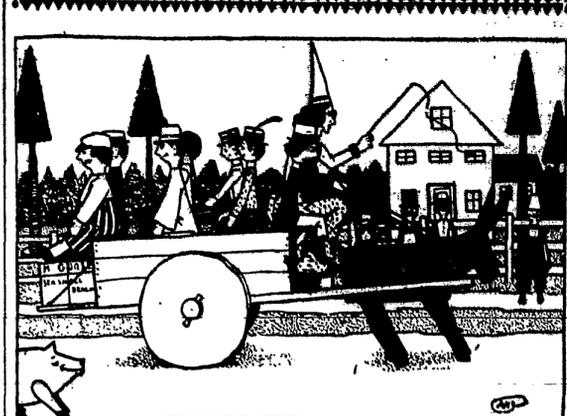
Sacred Heart church, Malden, Mass., Rev. Thomas H. Shahan, pastor was dedicated May 6th.

The corner stone of Borgess hospital, Kalamazoo, Michigan, will be blessed on Sunday, June 9th, at 4 P. M. The Sisters of St. Joseph are in charge of this hospital.

Mrs. Margaret A. Jenkins, aged 84, died the other day in Wilmington, Del. Until three years ago, she resided in Baltimore. Her liberality to local charities was extensive. One of her gifts was the purchase of the building now used as a convent by the Franciscan Sisters at Maryland avenue and 33rd street.

Excavation for the new orphan asylum building at Sparkill, Rockland county, is now in progress. The new building will replace the one destroyed by fire.

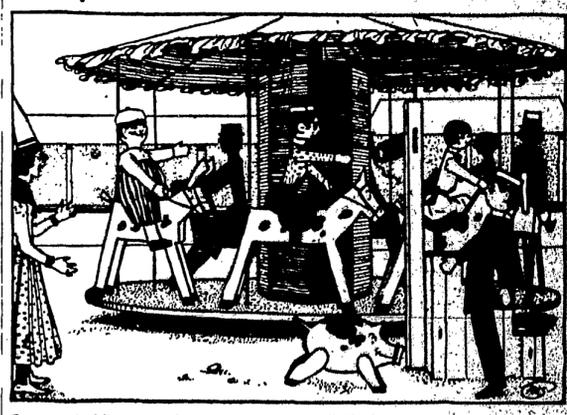
JOLLY JOBBERNOWLS RIDE THE MERRY GO ROUND



Because they'd worked for her so well, kind Mother Goose agreed That of a merry holiday the Jobbernows had need. She baked her very nicest cakes, she made some luscious pie, And these and more she packed within a box of ample size. They started for a nearby beach, all sober, staid and neat, All packed within a funny cart drawn by, a donkey neat. Because he pleased so to drive, Pat held the reins awhile, But naughty Neddy would not budge, which made the people smile.



With Mother Goose in charge of Ned, he briskly bobbed along, And as they rode the party sang a jerky little song. When they had come to Seashell beach, the wildest fun began. They dug the sand and gayly bathed, nor cared how they might tan. A hermit crab whom they annoyed caught Ole by the toe And clung to it in spite of shakas and Ole's shrieks of woe. The pig of clams had quite a feast. Said Hans, "A clambake's rare!" And so upon a fire they built they baked some clams with care.



Carousel riding was the treat reserved until the last, And Mother Goose with pride surveyed their figures rolling past. For rings they all kept reaching out (a white ring meant a ride), And so, of course, the prize to win each jolly rider tried. It happened the carousel man was short of cash that day, And so to make them pay again he hid the ring away. The pig in rooting round the sand upon the white ring came, Which won for it the promised ride and caused that man much shame.

A ROOSTER THAT CACKLED.

How Mr. Red Top Cussed Mrs. Speckle to Faint Entirely Away. "Cut-out-cut-awcut!" cried Mrs. Speckle. "Come, everybody, and see my new egg." Mr. Red Top and the rest of his wives came hurrying up. The hen crowded about, eager to look, but Red Top turned away disgusted when he saw the egg. "What a lot of noise you hens make over nothing!" said he. "Noise, is it?" said Mrs. Speckle. "It's you who are jealous because you can't cackle like us. You can only flap your wings and crow, and it sounds as if you had a bad cold." The rooster shook with anger and struck at her with his beak, but she was half way across the yard by that time. So he flew up on the fence and relieved his feelings with a loud crow, while Mrs. Speckle cackled mockingly. But Speckle was right. Red Top was jealous of her beautiful voice—frightfully jealous. The other hens tried in vain to cheer him up.

"How conceited she must be!" said Mrs. Plymouth Rock. "And such an ordinary hen too!" "The idea of you being jealous of her!" said Mrs. Brownie. "Poor creature, I suppose she doesn't know any better!"

A Young Financier. "Say, mamma, how much are you worth?" "You are worth a million of dollars to me, my son." "Say, mamma, couldn't you advance me \$5 cents?"

NEW YORK CENTRAL THE FOUR TRACK THROUGH THE CITY TRAINS LEAVE FROM AND ARRIVE AT GRAND CENTRAL STATION, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS: EAST BY MAIN LINE, WEST BY MAIN LINE, EAST BY AUBURN ROAD, WEST BY FALLS ROAD, GRAND CENTRAL AND OREGON BRANCH, LEAVE GOING EAST, LEAVE GOING WEST, TRAINS ARRIVE.

PATENT... (Large advertisement for a patent product, possibly a shoe or a mechanical device, with a large illustration of a shoe.)