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THE OLD ADDRESS

A TRUTH EXPLAINED

THE FOUNDING OF THE TRUE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

Our Saviour's Words to Peter and the Only Way in Which They Can Be Logically and Intelligently Interpreted--The Crucial Text.

In considering the question, "Was the Church of Christ Founded on Peter?" the crucial text is this: "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answering said to him: Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but My Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church."

In interpreting this text the crucial point is to give a satisfactory answer to this question: Why did Christ, in speaking of the foundation of His Church, stop to tell Peter what his name was? To this question our Protestant friends give no satisfactory answer at all. On the contrary, if their understanding of our Lord's meaning be correct, the mention of the apostle's name would seem to be irrelevant, superfluous and, in fact, meaningless. On the other hand, according to the Catholic interpretation of the text, the reference to his name was relevant to the thought our Lord had in mind. It was profoundly significant, and it was, as we may say, in accordance with the analogy of Scripture.

Now for the proof that there is just this crucial difference between the two interpretations.

According to the Protestant belief, the rock to which our Lord referred was not Peter, but either Christ Himself or faith in Him as the only Redeemer of men or the fundamental truth of His divinity. In which Peter had just expressed his undoubting faith. But if so, then His meaning may be expressed clearly and in all its fullness by the following paraphrase of the text, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed Me to thee this truth of My divinity, but My Father in heaven; and upon the rock of this truth I will build My Church."

But if this was all He meant, it was certainly not all He said, for He said, "My Father hath revealed this truth to thee (and I say to thee that thou art Peter), and upon the rock of this truth of My divinity I will build My Church." But if He was referring all the time only to the doctrine of His divinity, what conceivable reason could there have been for His introducing Peter's name in the words we have put in the brackets? They certainly do not seem to be necessary, as Protestants usually maintain, as a "clarifier" or do-

illigence to the thought that is expressed by the words outside of the parenthesis. They seem to have no connection whatever with that thought. They would seem, therefore, to be wholly uncalled for and unmeaning. It is indeed hard to say why they were introduced just where we find them.

To understand the Catholic explanation of them we must go back to the Old Testament. We find there that when God made his covenant with Abram He changed his name to Abraham, and the angel changed Jacob's name to Israel, "because as a prince he had power with God." Here, then, are two instances in which God's selection of men for exalted positions was marked by a change of their names. But is there any such instance in the New Testament? Yes. When Christ first met Simon He gave him a new name. "Thou shalt be called Cephas." Now, if the question is allowable, was this change of Simon's name a mere caprice or was there in it a deep and far-reaching significance?

Catholics believe the latter. They regard the change of name as a prophetic, whose full meaning was made clear in the crucial text we are considering. And if this text contains, as they believe it does, a reference to the change of the apostle's name as being full of profound meaning, then we have a sufficient reason for our Lord's saying, "Thou art Peter." To resort again to a paraphrase, it was as if He had said, "I now announce to thee plainly and explicitly a purpose of which I gave thee an intimation when I changed thy name to Cephas, a rock, and that purpose is that thou art to be the rock on which I will build My Church." Here, then, we have a simple, clear and satisfactory reason why Christ, in speaking of the foundation of His Church, should have stopped to remind Peter of his name and its meaning.

The issue as thus stated is too plain not to be clearly perceived. It is vain to try to avoid it by talking about the difference in meaning between Petros and petra. The truth is, Christ did not use either of these words, for they are Greek, and He did not speak to Peter in Greek. He spoke Syriac, and, while the Greek version uses two different words, He used the same Syriac word, "Cephas," in both places. What He Himself said was, "Thou art Cephas (a rock), and on this Cephas (rock) I will build My Church."--Truth.

An Innovation.
For the first time in the history of the Grand Army of the Republic the national chaplain is a priest. He is the Rev. John F. Leary, rector of St. Michael's church, Chapman, Kan. He was elected chaplain in chief at the national encampment held last September. He was born in New York state in 1845. The war service of the chaplain was as a member of the Fifteenth New York engineers. That was before he became a priest. He served in the

Wilderness, at Spottsylvania and at Appomattox.

May Be Our Next Cardinal.
A letter from Rome to a prominent Catholic in Portland, who is an old friend of Archbishop William H. O'Connell, the new coadjutor of Boston, indicates that he will be selected as the next American cardinal on his succeeding Archbishop Williams. The letter states that there is no more popular man at the Vatican than the new coadjutor of Boston, on account of the success of his mission to Japan and that in the presence of Mgr. Merry del Val the Pope said to him: "I love the good people of Boston, for they are the most loyal in all most loyal America. Red will be the more suitable color for you than purple when they are given over to your care, for it will better signify the pure red blood of our loyal Boston children."

Father Collins For Jamaica.
The Rev. John J. Collins, S. J., who has been succeeded as president of Fordham university, New York, by the Rev. Daniel J. Quinn, has been appointed by Pope Plus X, administrator apostolic of the vicariate apostolic of Jamaica, West Indies. Father Collins has gone to Jamaica to assume his new duties, in which he will succeed Bishop Gordon, who has been incapacitated by illness. Father Collins was a member of commissions appointed by the British government to study material conditions and the educational system of Jamaica and has spent nine years on that island. He has filled the rectorate of Fordham university about two years, during which he has done much for the upbuilding of the institution.

The Carmelites.
To inspect all the houses of the order in the United States, Canada and South America the Rev. Plus Mayer, superior general of the Carmelite order, has arrived here. He will travel about 40,000 miles before getting back to Rome next year. In all this traveling the superior general will be without a penny of money, and his only baggage will consist of a small hand bag containing articles necessary for his toilet. The rule of the order is poverty. Father Mayer is an American and until a few years ago lived in Pittsburgh. "This inspection of the houses is required once in three years," he said. "The work of the order is progressing slowly in this country, but in Holland and Spain the outlook is much brighter."

Dispel the Gloom.
Ah, you who go about with sad and unsmiling countenances, pretending that you are better than others because of your long face, it is not your religion which makes you gloomy, but, rather, the lack of it. There is more religion in one good, hearty laugh than in a whole hemisphere of cloud and gloom.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Lord Roberts Was One of the First Men to Receive It.

Fifty years ago Queen Victoria founded the famous Order of the Victoria Cross. The little bronze emblem bearing the words "For Valor" still remains the most famous naval and military decoration in the world. Up to the present 520 sailors and soldiers, including three civilians, acting for the time as combatants, have received Queen Victoria's Cross.

One of the first men to receive the decoration was Lord Roberts, of Kandahar, who saved a flag during the mutiny, forty-seven years ago. Lord Roberts is the only man in the world who possesses two Victoria crosses. The second was won by his son in his heroic efforts to save the guns at Colenso during the Boer war. Lieutenant Roberts died of his wounds and the cross he had won at the cost of death was given by the late Queen to Lord Roberts, who is entitled to wear the reward of his son's bravery on his right breast.

Some of the exploits which led to the reward of the cross "For Valor" are absolutely amazing. During a campaign it is the ambition of every British officer and man to earn the Victoria Cross, and the reckless bravery displayed during the South African war led to a reprint from headquarters, many gallant men needlessly throwing away their lives.

The Shah of Persia in Russia.
The Shah of Persia is a man of moods and his visits are not always unmixed joys at the courts he honors. On the occasion of his recent stay in St. Petersburg his peculiarities gave infinite trouble to the Russian court officials. One of his most trying idiosyncracies is his habit of occasionally going to bed for twenty-four hours at a stretch, giving strict orders that he is not to be disturbed under pain of death. More than once the days selected were those on which special festivities had been arranged in his honor. As a matter of fact, his majesty, who is devoted to children, preferred half an hour with the little grand duchesses to any other entertainment, and won the children's hearts by letting them play with his exquisite collection of diamonds and other precious stones, which is said to be worth a king's ransom.--London Tatler.

Origin of St. Maurice.
St. Maurice in Switzerland is the name of a little station on the railway that leads up the Rhone valley from the lake of Geneva. The place gets its name as follows: Maurice was the officer, second in command of the Thebaic legion, when the Emperor Maximilian marched over the Alps in A. D. 302 to quell a rising in Gaul. At Octodurum (Martigny) the legion, every man of which was a

Christian, was ordered to sacrifice to the Roman gods for the success of the expedition. Headed by Maurice, they refused, marched off to Agaunum (St. Maurice), and there were twice decimated to enforce submission. But they still refused, and finally the remainder were surrounded and cut down by the rest of the army.

Curious Legal Custom.

A curious custom is in vogue in many parts of India. If a dispute arises between two landowners two holes are dug close together, in each of which defendant's and plaintiff's lawyers have to place a leg. They have to remain thus until either one of them is exhausted or complains of being bitten by insects, when he is judged to be defeated and his employer loses his case.

Dog Scavengers in France.

The municipality of Nice, France, has organized a troop of dog scavengers for the cleaning of the sewers. Some of the sewer pipes are too small to allow of the passage of men. The dogs have been trained to drag a cord with a brush at the end of it from one end of the pipe to another. The system is meeting with complete success.

Yield of Cocoa Palm.

The cocoa palm, from which chocolate comes, bears its pods, which contain fifteen to twenty-five beans each, at ten to twelve feet from the ground. Four hundred trees are planted on an acre and each yields about one dollar's worth of beans.

At the Bargain Counter.

A London periodical reports a "regrettable incident. In a bargain counter rush a valuable ostrich feather became detached from a lady's hat and was sold as a remnant before the lady had discovered and could explain her loss.

King Edward's Punctuality.

King Edward, like his mother, is always punctual to the second in his public engagements. If the programme is that he shall be at the Horse Guards at 1.48 and Victoria Gate at 1.53, he is there, for all to see, on time.

Postal Cards in Jerusalem.

In 1905 more than half a million picture postcards were sold to tourists at Jerusalem. They are made in Germany and Switzerland at \$2 to \$12 a thousand.

Tongues of Various Animals.

The tongues of some animals are very dangerous weapons. A lion could speedily kill a man by merely licking him with his tongue. The tongues of all the members of the cat family are covered with curious, recurving spines, formed of tough cartilage.

Anglo-Indian Life.

Every night at dinner the Anglo-Indian holds a kind of a levee. The insects which attend dance gayly round the lamp, and one has to watch one's plate and glass carefully lest some of the insects should dance into them. There is one insect a little, flat, brown, shining creature which emits the worst odor in the world. If one of these touches your food the whole is tainted and rendered inedible. You dare not kill these pests, for if one be crushed the whole room becomes filled with its disgusting smell and is uninhabitable for the next half hour. So these abominable insects fly about with impunity while the poor Anglo-Indian must perforce look helplessly on.

A Four Footed Singer.

Why the singing mouse should possess its unique gift no one knows, but undoubtedly it sings. It is a small animal, with very large ears, which are moved about much while singing, as if that were necessary to the success of the vocal performance. The song is not, as you think, a prolonged squeak with variations, but a succession of clear, warbling notes, with trills, not unlike the song of a canary, and quite as beautiful, though some of the notes are much lower. One great peculiarity is a sort of double song, an air with accompaniment quite subdued. Upon first hearing this one believes that he is listening to more than one mouse, so perfect is the illusion.

Hugo's Five-Legged Trousers.

Thomas Pays, aged twenty-five, without resources, conceived the idea of declaring that a pair of checked trousers he possessed had belonged to Victor Hugo. He immediately started off to sell portions to credulous collectors, who paid \$20 even for a button. Then he began to sell the legs of the trousers, but when he sold a fifth leg he was arrested on complaint of one of his dupes.--New York World.

Blind Workers.

The only factory in the world where every employe is blind is situated in Philadelphia and manufactures brooms. The institution is perhaps the most remarkable in existence, and was founded as far back of 1874 by Mr. H. L. Hall, himself a blind man, who is still the ruling spirit of the factory, and whose great desire is to give employment to every blind man in America.

Pay of Soldiers.

The soldiers of the United States are better paid than in any other army in the world. Our soldiers receive \$13 a month, while the pay of the other nations is as follows: Austria-Hungary, \$0.73 a month; France, \$1.74; Germany, \$2.50; Great Britain, \$7.14; Japan \$0.60; Russia, \$0.12.--Harper's Weekly.