

The Eagle Quill

September 1, 1911

A CONFUTATION.

The "Cross of Gold" and the "Crown of Thorns."

Finding among various newspaper clippings, etc., one taken from the Eagle Quill of March 24, 1911, I deemed myself justified to vindicate the doctrines of the "Cross of Gold" and the "Crown of Thorns."

The Quill's readers may recollect the following clipping from the article on "Trusts" by Lincoln Daniel Hinkley:—

"The more 'cruel corporation' and 'wicked trusts' there are, the better off everyone is. Of all the false doctrines ever promulgated the 'Cross of Gold' and the 'Crown of Thorns' was and is the most ruinous."

Some still seem to delight in chewing the rejected "cud" of bigotry. Mr. Hinkley may have the best of will,—and let us hope so; but we would advise all those who are ignorant of the truths of the Catholic church to refrain from reducing themselves to a publicly ludicrous religious "ignoramus!"

However, we may say and prove in vindication of the so-called "ruinous doctrines of the 'Cross of Gold' and the 'Crown of Thorns,'" that the paramount spiritual force in the world has always been and always will be the Holy Catholic church.

Viewing the progressive endeavors of our modern world, we perceive the repetition of history. In spite of the fact that the Catholic church is the only true reformer, modern reformers try to do without Her. A striking analogy exists between the ancient reformer and the modern. In the ancient world reformation of moral life was as necessary as it is in the world of today. This age of civilization, ostensibly golden, is permeated with decay, while menaced with further degradation by the wily movements of paganism in modern garb, offering a hand that shall lead to the gloomy realms of a paganism comparatively the same as that of antiquity. As philosophers in ancient times, rising to save the masses by philosophy, great law-givers by laws and legislatures, utterly failed in attempts which have always been futile without religion, so today the modern reformer, copying the godless efforts of antiquity, finds that insurmountable obstacles are as inseparable as the attendant difficulties to disprove in Infinite God. Even when ancient Greece gracefully and proudly trod the highway of her most exalted human culture; when ancient Rome followed in the footsteps of Greece's highest culture and intellectual attainments—even then reformation of moral life was necessary for the welfare of human society. When intellectual culture had reached its zenith of glory, moral depravity seemed to wax beyond its depth. Human pride domineered the man of passion. Men were gods.

Reformation was widely necessary;

but the reformation attempted was as yeast leavening a great mass of turmoil and resentment into more congenial corruption, and complacent increasing depravity; for where is reformation realized when the components are vain attempts? Where is reformation prolific when reformation is godless?

A nation can as little be reformed by laws and legislation as a vast multitude simultaneously can pass through a narrow entrance. The nation as a mass of people cannot be reformed, but the nation as composed of individuals. The nation is what the individual is. Therefore, the reformation of the individual is the reformation of the nation.

The modern thinker personates the present age as a gleaming age of insipient enlightenment and general amelioration. But modern society has rejected a god and a moral law, has changed the Ten Commandments of God; and made itself the law of God and of man. Modern reformers are blind reformers—"the blind leading the blind." With natural religion they must deal with natural elements but natural elements can never reform fallen nature. As to try reforming human society by solely natural means, one might as well try to lift himself by means of his bootstraps, from off the mundane globe. Modern reformers become pagans in modern life. Modern philosophy will fail as ancient philosophy failed. Modern education will fail because it is a godless education, sending forth men powerful for harm—giants in intellectual character, but pigmies in moral character. And so it is; along we struggle on the crested waves of life, encountering at every step the folly of the modern skeptic and reformer, who repeats experiments of a thousand years ago. "History repeats itself." This is the repetition of pagan morality. Paganism is revived. The animal nature of man, far from being extinct, is ever on the alert to degrade the higher man with the lower. The reconditely drastic potency of the inferior nature frequently asserts itself and effects depravities apparently prodigious. The greed of the passions is extenuated by acquiescence thereto, under the pretext of practicing the self-acquired prerogative of the age, the self-named "good"—"Modern Zeal!" yes! practice diabolism! spread any scandal whatever! advocate revolution, evolution and "devilution" in any mode or degree! subject yourself to crime and immorality! and, lo—the principles of modern paganism—all will be laudable as good and paradigmatical for virtue, if only it bears the peremptory infallible and saving insignia of "Modern Enlightenment."