

[Nov. 17, 1891]

Dear Elias. You express astonishment at the declaration of a Protestant that the Church has granted divorces, you do not know the unconscious bigotry of Protestantism as I do. Take for instance a good woman, I refer to Mrs Twitty, notwithstanding I have proved to her a thousand times more or less, that Catholics do not believe the Pope impeccable, she will insist that they do. What can be done with such people? simply nothing. Father should have said to his friend as follows. "In the whole history of Catholicism there is not recorded an instance wherein the Pope had so much at stake (the whole British Empire) as the one with whom Henry the VIII had the quarrel, and had the Pope yielded England would still have been Catholic - but the Pope did not yield. So insist that

He did not yield in this case (the
 greatest) but that he did in other
 cases (the smaller) is very foolish
 indeed. It is as though I assert
 that 50 cents is a ^{greater} temptation to a
 thief than 50 dollars. Father's opponent
 is behind the times. Does he not know
 that among the really educated it is
 fashionable to be Catholic, & that there
 are very few brilliant Protestant preach-
 ers who are not considered heretical by
 that heterogeneous agglomeration of opinions
 termed Protestant orthodoxy. Biggs Brooks
 Newton Dix etc. Let me digress a moment
 & give you a few questions & answers.
 They are pertinent I assure you, & relate
 to the Biggs case. What is heresy? A
 sin against God & His truth. What is
 meant by His truth? The whole truth,
 not a part of it, & hence the infalli-
 ble truth. Is this infallible truth found
 in the Westminster Confession (Presb.), No,

because a great many Pres. assert
that it is erroneous. What is necessary
for trying one under the circumstances?
A standard of truth. What would com-
mon sense suggest concerning this
standard? That it must be infallible
because if otherwise, it might lead to
error, which is opposed to any form of
truth. Can Prot. then try a man for
heresy? It can not. Because it asserts
that it does not possess infallibility,
& since truth is infallible it does
not possess truth, & because they all
teach different doctrines. Is not
truth always unchangeable or infalli-
ble. Yes. Then why do Prot. ministers
who are divided among themselves try
a man for heresy? It is simply the
exercise of one of the prerogatives
transmitted by a certain Mr Calvin
who to seduce men from the Church of
Rome, asserted freedom of thought, &
who afterwards, because some of his con-
verts could not agree, with him, bestowed

himself to the religious point of cooking them. A host places the Bible in a man's hands & tells him "Read it sir, it contains the only way to salvation as you will understand it, assisted, by the Holy Ghost." Now this man comes to a conclusion, & another to a different conclusion, in fact I might say a directly opposite one. Yet both mind you are assisted by the Holy Ghost. (which Christ said He would send as a Comforter.) So the Holy Ghost, according to Protestantism, teaches men directly opposed truths (of course if one is the truth the other must be the lie) & Protestantism to cap the climax steps in & tries one or both of these men for heresy. If such inconsistency were not of a religious nature, people who heed these opinions would be given cells in a mad house. But to return to the subject. The Church of Rome can not & heretofore has never granted

Divorces - May be Father's opponent refers to Napoleon's marriage. Why he imprisoned the Pope for not consenting! But because a weak priest was found to marry him, the Pope in the mean time in prison & protesting together with the whole Catholic world, does it follow that the Church has granted a divorce. As well hold Protestantism responsible for the face of a rascally preacher. Please ask that Protestant opponent to specify a case. I really do not know of any literature on the subject, the Church I suppose thinks it as useless to discuss that point, as you would the fact that $2 + 2$ are 4. I have made enquiry for the lectures to which you refer, but without success. If the book makes the assertion that the Church does grant divorces, remember that one was printed some time ago

containing the following great
truth - "If the south had not been
Catholic, the war of the rebellion
would never have occurred."

Hastily & sin.

Burtin.

This same Dr. Buggs preached yesterday
to a crowded house in New York that
there must exist a middle state.
Think of it, a Pres. preaching purgatory