

[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 Trinity. 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

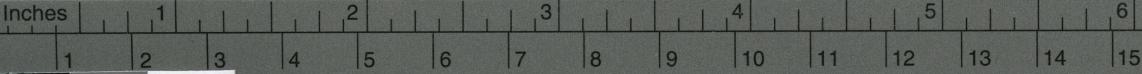
He did not yield in this case (the greatest) but that he did in other cases (the smaller) is very foolish indeed. It is as though I assert that 50 cents is ^{greater} temptation to a thief than 50 dollars. Father's opponent is behind the times, does he not know that among the really educated it is fashionable to be Catholic & that there are very few brilliant Protestant preachers who are not considered heretical by that heterogeneous agglomeration of opinions termed Protestant orthodoxy. Briggs Brooks Newton Dix etc. Let me digress a moment & give you a few quotations & authorities. They are pertinent I assume you, & relate to the Briggs 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 infallible truth. Is this infallible truth found in the Westminster Confession (Pres.). No,

(3)

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
believe 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, bestirred

himself to the religious point of
 cooking them. A brother 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 differ-
 ent 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 Protest-
 antism, 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 & ties one
 or both of these men for heresy.
 If such inconsistency were not of a
 religious nature, people who held
 these opinions would be given cells
 in a mad house. But to return to
 the subject. the church of Rome
 can not & hence has never granted

Divorces - May be Father opposition
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 meantime
in prison & protesting together
with the whole Catholic world, does
it follow that the Church has granted
a divorce. As we hold Protestant-
ism responsible for the fall of a
reverend 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 use-
less 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 rebels
would never have occurred."

Hastily & sic.

Brown.

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 penitency