

the *Scarlet Threads* reprint series

Would You Say That Again, Please?

Men of God through the centuries have spoken about Romanism.
Here are their words,
most of which were printed in past issues of
the *Scarlet Threads* newsletter.

1. Dr. H.A. Ironside

It is a lamentable fact that Babylon's principles and practices are rapidly but surely pervading the churches that escaped from Rome at the time of the Reformation. We may see evidences of it in the wide use of high-sounding ecclesiastical titles, once unknown in the reformed churches, in the revival of holy days and church feasts such as Lent, Good Friday, Easter and Christ's Mass, or, as it is generally written, Christmas. I quite admit that some of these festivals if divested of any ecclesiastical character may be observed in innocence in the home, but when they are turned into church festivals they certainly come under the condemnation of Galatians 4:9-11, where the Holy Spirit warns against the observance of days and months and times and seasons. All of them, and many more that might be added are Babylonish in their origin, and were at one time linked with the Ashtoreth and Tammuz mystery-worship. It is through Rome that they have come down to us; and we do well to remember that Babylon is a mother, with daughters who are likely to partake of their mother's characteristics..."

From Ironside's *Lectures on the Book of Revelation*, 1920.(p301)**Note:***Dr. Ironside was pastor of Chicago's Moody Church. Could he hold that office today?ST*

2. Alexander Hislop

It is time that the Church of God be aroused...alas! how few are they who are lifting up their voice like a trumpet, who are sounding the alarm in God's holy mountain - who are bestirring themselves according to the greatness of the emergency...The emissaries of Rome for years have been laboring unceasingly night and day, ...in every conceivable way, to advance their Master's cause...But the "children of light" have allowed themselves to be lulled into a fatal security. They have folded their hands; they have got to sleep as soundly as if Rome had actually disappeared from the face of the earth...Oh Church of God, awake, awake!..Open your eyes...Search the Scriptures for yourselves; compare them with the facts of history...if we would really wish to do anything effectual in this warfare, it is indispensable that we know, and continually keep before our eyes, the stupendous character of that Mystery of Iniquity embodied in the Papacy...Popery boasts of being the "old religion;"...it is ancient indeed. It can trace its lineage far beyond the era of Christianity, ...to near the period of ...the building of the Tower of Babel. During all this period its essential elements have been nearly the same..."

(from *Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop, 1916, pp 286-287)

3. John Bunyan

John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress is second only to the Bible in its popularity among Christians. Its author, John Bunyan, wrote it in an English jail, suffering at the hands of a daughter of Rome who didn't like his preaching, especially since he had not been granted "permission" from them to do so. Here is his 17th century view of Papism, told through the journey of "Pilgrim":

"In this Light therefore he came to the end of the Valley. Now I saw in my dream, that at the end of this Valley lay blood, bones, ashes, and mangled bodies of men, even of Pilgrims that had gone this Way formerly: And while I was musing what should be the reason, I espied a little before me a Cave, where two giants, *Pope* and *Pagan*, dwelt in old Time; by whose power and tyranny the men, whose bones, blood, ashes, &c. lay there, were cruelly put to death. But by this place *Christian* went without much danger, whereat I somewhat wondered: But I have learnt since, that *Pagan* has been dead many a day; and as for the other, though he be yet alive, he is, by reason of age, and also of many shrewd brushes that he met with in his younger days, grown so crazy and stiff in his joints, that he can now do little more than sit in his Cave's mouth, grinning at Pilgrims as they go by, and biting his nails, because he cannot come at them.

"So I saw that *Christian* went on his Way; yet, at the sight of the *Old Man*, that sat in the mouth of the Cave, he could not tell what to think, 'specially because he spake to him, though he could not go after him; saying, *You will never mend, till more of you be burnt.* But he held his peace, and set a good face on't, and so went by, and caught no hurt."

We certainly do not intend to suggest here that Roman persecution has ceased. John Bunyan did not live to see the growing menace of Rome. But the persecution of believers by Rome was an established part of history in his day, which we do well to note.(ST)

4. J.C. Ryle

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900) was an Anglican priest but a staunch Evangelical . He wrote about the English church of his day in an article to that body which asks: Why were our reformers burned?

A very popular history of our English Queens hardly mentions the martyrdoms of Queen Mary's days! Yet Mary was not called "Bloody Mary" without reason, and scores of Protestants were burned in her reign.

Mary's victims were either to give up Protestantism and receive Popery, or else they had to be burned alive. Refusing to recant, they were one by one handed over to the secular power, publicly brought out and chained to stakes, publicly surrounded with faggots, and publicly sent out of the world by that most cruel and painful of deaths...

We owe to the Reformation an English Bible, and liberty for every man, woman, and child in the land to read it...

Shall we in this century talk lightly of the great work which they did? Shall we entertain for a moment the idea of forsaking Reformation principles *and going back to Rome?*... The man who counsels such base apostasy and suicidal folly must be judicially blind. The iron collar has been broken; let us not put it on again. The prison has been thrown open; let us not resume the yoke and return to our chains.

5. John Wesley

John and Charles Wesley are known for their desire for heart-felt experience of Christ. But they were not soft on doctrine, or in the commonly held view of Rome: From, A Word to a Protestant, by John Wesley:

"Among the errors (of Rome) may be numbered their doctrine of seven sacraments, of transubstantiation, of communion in one kind only, of purgatory, and praying for the dead therein, of veneration of relics, and of

indulgences. It is thought by some that these errors, great as they are, do only defile the purity of Christianity; but it is sure the following strike at its very root, and tend to banish true religion out of the world:

"First, the doctrine of merit. The very foundation of Christianity is that a man can merit nothing of God, that we are justified freely by His grace...not for any of our works or of our deservings, but by faith in the blood of the covenant.

But the papists hold that a man may by his works merit or deserve eternal life...

"Second, the doctrine of praying to saints and worshipping of images. To the Virgin Mary they pray in these words: 'O Mother of God, O Queen of Heaven, command Thy Son to have mercy upon us.' And, 'The right use of images,' says the council of Trent, 'is to honor them by bowing down before them.' This is gross, open, palpable idolatry.

"Third, the doctrine of persecution. The papists in general still maintain that all heretics ought to be compelled to receive what they call the true faith; to be forced into the church or out of the world...this tends to bring in blind, bitter zeal, anger, hatred...

"So plain is it that these grand popish doctrines of merit, idolatry, and persecution, by destroying both faith and the love of God and of our neighbor, tend to banish true Christianity out of the world."

6. George Fox

*George Fox is the famous Quaker of the 17th century whose **Journal** contains the following conversation, had at the house of a friend:*

There were several great persons at dinner with him, and he said to one of them, who was a great Papist, "Here is a Quaker which you have not seen before."

The Papist asked me whether I did own the christening of children. I told him there was no Scripture for any such practice.

"What!" said he, "not for christening children?"

I said, "Nay, the one baptism by the one spirit into one body we own, but to throw a little water on a child's face and say that was baptizing and christening it, there is no Scripture for that."

Then he asked me whether I did own [acknowledge] the Catholic faith. I said, "Yes," but added that neither the Pope nor the Papists were in that Catholic faith, for the true faith works by love and purifies the heart, and if they were in that faith that gives victory by which they might have access to God, they would not tell the people of a purgatory after they were dead.

So I undertook to prove that neither Pope nor Papists that held a purgatory hereafter were in the true faith; for the true, precious, divine faith, which Christ is the author of, gives victory over the devil and sin, that had separated man and woman from God. And if they (the Papists) were in the true faith they would never use racks, prisons, and fines to persecute and force others to their religion that were not of their faith; for this was not the practice of the apostles and primitive Christians who witnessed and enjoyed the true faith of Christ, but it was the practice of the faithless Jews and heathens to do so.

"But," I said to him, "seeing thou art a great and leading man among the Papists, and hast been taught and bred up under the Pope, and seeing thou sayest there is no salvation but in your church, I desire to know of thee what it is that doth bring salvation in your church?"

He answered, "A good life."

"And nothing else?" said I.

"Yes," said he. "Good works."

"And is this it that brings salvation in your church, a good life and good works? Is this your doctrine and your principle?" said I.

"Yes," said he.

"Then," said I, "neither thou, nor the Pope, nor any of the Papists know what it is that brings salvation."

Then he asked me what brought salvation in our church. I told him, "That which brought salvation to the church in the apostles' days, the same brings salvation to us, and not another; namely, the grace of God, which, the Scripture says, brings salvation, and hath appeared to all men, which taught the saints then, and teaches us now; and this grace which brings salvation teaches to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live godly, righteously, and soberly. So it is not the good works nor the good life that brings the salvation, but the grace."

"What!" said the Papist, "Doth this grace that brings salvation appear unto all men?"

"Yes," said I.

Then said he, "I deny that."

"But," I said, "all that deny that are sect-makers, and are not in the universal faith, grace, and truth which the apostles were in."

Then he spake to me about the mother-church. The Papists charged us with forsaking their church, and they

said Rome was the only mother-church; the Episcopalians taxed us with forsaking the old Protestant religion, and they said theirs was the reformed mother-church; the Presbyterians and Independents blamed us for leaving them, and each of them said theirs was the right reformed church.

But I said that if we could own any outward city or place to be the mother-church, we should own outward Jerusalem, where the gospel was first preached by Christ himself and the apostles, where Christ suffered,...where were the types, figures, and shadows which Christ ended, and where Christ commanded His disciples to wait until they were endued with power from on high. ..But the apostle saith (Gal.4:25,26), Jerusalem which now is is in bondage with her children; but Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. And though this title (mother) hath been given to places and sects amongst and by the degenerate Christians, yet we say still, as the apostle said of old, Jerusalem that is above is the mother of us all; and we can own no other, neither outward Jerusalem nor Rome nor any sect of people for our mother but Jerusalem which is above, which is free, the mother of us all that are born again and become true believers in the light, and who are grafted into Christ the heavenly vine.

For all who are born again of the immortal seed by the word of God which lives and abides forever, feed upon the milk of the word, the breasts of life, and grow by it in life, and cannot acknowledge any other to be their mother but Jerusalem which is above.

7. Hugh Latimer

*Hugh Latimer is the 16th-century Gospel preacher heralded by John Foxe in his **Book of Martyrs** (see review of this book , page 2). The final words of Latimer and Bishop Ridley, with whom he was burned at the stake, have become classic to those who love the Gospel. But Hugh Latimer said some important things before he died, also, such as the following response to the Bishop of Lincoln, when asked to recant and return to the Roman Catholic church.*

“No, my lord,” interrupted Master Latimer, “ I confess there is a catholic church, but not the church which you call catholic, which sooner might be termed diabolic. It is one thing to say Romish church, and another to say catholic church: I might use here the counsel of Cyprian, who at what time he was ascited before certain bishops demanded of them sitting in judgment, which was most like to be the Church of Christ, whether he who was persecuted, or they who did persecute? ‘Christ’, said he, ‘hath foreshowed, that he that doth follow Him, must take up His cross. Christ gave knowledge that the disciples should have persecution and trouble. How think you then, my lords, is it most like that the see of Rome, which hath been a continual persecutor, is rather the Church, or that flock which hath continually been persecuted of it, even to death?’ ”

*(Foxe’s **Book of Martyrs**, Whitaker edition, p. 300.)*

8. John Wyclif

*I quote again this month from Foxe’s classic **Book of Martyrs**. In chapter three he shares with his readers some articles of faith from several of “Wickliff’s” sermons (his spelling). It was teachings such as the following that caused Rome , later, to dig up Wyclif’s bones, and burn them, and cast the remains into the Avon, as a statement of warning to all her subjects.*

The holy eucharist, after the consecration, is not the very body of Christ.

The church of Rome is not the head of all churches more than any other church is; nor that Peter had any more power given of Christ than any other apostle had.

The Pope of Rome hath no more in the keys of the Church than hath any other within the order of priesthood.

The Gospel is a rule sufficient of itself to rule the life of every Christian man here, without any other rule.

All other rules, under whose observances divers religious persons be governed, do add no more perfection to the Gospel, than doth the white colour to the wall.

Neither the Pope, nor any other prelate of the church, ought to have prisons wherein to punish transgressors.

Not perfect doctrine? Granted, but not bad for a Roman Catholic of the 1300’s!

9. John Oldcastle

In Foxe's Book of Martyrs, after Wyclif comes a man described by Foxe as "a principal favourer, receiver, and maintainer of those...called Lollards...setting them up to preach whom the bishops had not licensed...", Sir John Oldcastle. He was "a man of great birth, and in favour at that time with the King," at least until "a great part of the clergy went straitways unto the King...and there laid forth most grievous complaints against..." him.

As with Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar, a frightened monarch hoped for a solution to the dilemma that would not mean the death of the man of God, and he begged John to "submit himself to his mother the Holy Church." His response:

"You, most worthy prince, I am always prompt and willing to obey, forasmuch as I know you a Christian king, and the appointed minister of God, bearing the sword to the punishment of evildoers, and for safeguard of them that be virtuous. Unto you, next my eternal God, owe I my whole obedience, and submit thereunto, as I have done ever, all that I have, either of fortune or nature, ready at all times to fulfil whatsoever ye shall in the Lord command me. But, as touching the Pope and his spirituality, I owe them neither suit nor service, forasmuch as I know him, by the Scriptures, to be the great Antichrist, the son of perdition, the open adversary of God, and the abomination standing in the holy place."

[I have not reached that conclusion from the same Scripture, but my sympathy is with men who see the church as the "temple of God," and one sitting there who should not be sitting there, calling himself "Holy Father", "Pontifex Maximus", and the "Vicar" of Christ, in other words, titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit!st]

Well, the king was a bit taken back, and had to forsake his friend. Several appeals are made, all denied. Pressure is applied, threats are made, and the ultimatum is given: "What is your belief concerning Holy Church?"

Oldcastle answered: "My belief is, that all the Scriptures of the sacred Bible are true. All that is grounded upon them I believe thoroughly, for I know it is God's pleasure that I should do so; but in your lordly laws and idle determinations have I no belief. For ye be no part of Christ's Holy Church, as your open deeds do show; but ye are very antichrists, obstinately set against His holy law and will. The laws that ye have made are nothing to His glory, but only for your vain glory and abominable covetousness. And as for your superiority, were ye of Christ, ye should be meek ministers, and no proud superiors."

After being delivered to the secular arm (later he was burned at the stake), excommunicated, and called accursed, John Oldcastle had this to say:

"Though ye judge my body, which is but a wretched thing, yet am I certain and sure, that ye can do no harm to my soul, no more than could Satan unto the soul of Job. He that created that, will of His infinite mercy and promise save it. I have, therein, no manner of doubt.

"Lord God Eternal! I beseech Thee, of Thy great mercy sake, to forgive my pursuers, if it be Thy blessed will."

The heart grieves to consider that such a man as this in our day would be shunned by most Protestants as well as by Rome. ST

10. John Huss

(John Huss was the Bohemian -now Czechoslovakian- martyr who was sent to the flames in 1414 by edict of the Council of Constance. This was the same Council that dug up Wyclif's bones and burned them, that condemned liar-murderer Pope John XXIII (the first), and that decreed that the Pope's authority is under the Council. Oh yes, they also tried to settle the question as to who the real Pope was between the three reigning Popes of the day! Following are some of the sentiments that sent Huss to his death, as quoted by Foxe in his Book of Martyrs.)

False it is that they say the Pope and his cardinals to be the true and manifest successors of Peter and of

the apostles, neither that any other successors of Peter and of the apostles can be found upon the earth besides them: whereas all bishops and priests be successors of Peter and of the apostles. [*as I have said before, look not for perfect doctrine in the first reformers! st*]

Not the Pope, but Christ only, is the head; and not the cardinals, but all Christ's faithful people, be the body of the Catholic Church.

If the Pope be a reprobate, it is plain that he is no head, no nor member even, of the Holy Church of God, but of the devil and of his synagogue.

Neither is it true, that we ought to stand in all things to the determination of the Pope and of the cardinals, but so far forth as they do agree with the holy Scripture of the Old and New Testament.

The Church of Rome is not that place where the Lord did appoint the principal see of His whole Church: for Christ, Who was the head priest of all, did first sit in Jerusalem, and Peter did first sit in Antioch, and afterward in Rome. Also other Popes did sit, some at Bologna, some at Avignon.

The prelates are falsifiers of the holy Scriptures who affirm and say, that we must obey the Pope in all things. For why? it is known that many Popes have been heretics, and one Pope was also a woman.

They fondly and childishly argue that the processes made against Master John Huss ought to be obeyed, because, forsooth, the whole body of the clergy of Prague have received them. By the same reason they may argue also, that we must obey the devil, because our first parents, Adam and Eve, obeyed him.

11. Elijah Lovejoy

*(Thanks to readers **Thomas Williamson** of Chicago, **Christie Michas** of Troy, Illinois, and Illinois author/Senator **Paul Simon** for the information in this article)*

Determined to keep the legacy of Elijah Lovejoy alive, Senator Simon has recently written a book about this hero of Southern Illinois, a man greatly involved in a then-growing fight against slavery.

Born into a Christian home in 1802, Lovejoy fights true conversion for his first 30 years, during which time he has travelled from his Maine birthplace to the "wild" West of St. Louis, a town of 5,600 people when he first saw it.

As an unsaved man he buys half interest in the St. Louis Times and becomes its new editor. "Negroes" were for sale in his want ads. A slave worked in his office.

A true conversion experience changes his life and he sells the newspaper, 1832. Later he is licensed to preach, and begins to do so with gusto. Included in his message is a strong warning to believers about the Roman Catholic system.

Simon plays down this anti-Rome aspect of Lovejoy's life as a fault -like we all have- in an otherwise brilliant man. Here was a man caught up, after all, in the prejudice of his day, and so he mouthed what he heard, implies Simon. Simon and I part company here, though I appreciate his work.

Lovejoy is offered, by some Christian businessmen, the chance to begin a new paper, one which will promote "religion" and morality. "Jesus Christ and Him Crucified" is the masthead on this weekly 4-page sensation begun in St. Louis, continued across the river in Alton, Illinois.

The reason for the interruption in locations is the violent destruction of Lovejoy's equipment by slave-loving Missourians. Lovejoy has turned against slavery. In Alton, more violence, and eventually his death at the hands of assassins.

Lovejoy dies in 1837, and is buried on his 35th birthday. A true hero. With a flaw.

Let's discuss the flaw awhile. Scanning through every newspaper Lovejoy edited in those couple of years in St. Louis and Alton, I saw a growing hatred of slavery and a lessening interest in Romanism, but a view that both were alarming. In 1995, American Slavery is gone (in its original form) but Romanism remains. Far from warning people about its dangers, modern "prophets" are on their way to re-embracing it. Pulpits are closed to those who dare speak against "Popery."

So Elijah, (good name!), would you say it again, please?

*From the **St Louis Observer**, December 17, 24, 1835:*

THE FATAL MISTAKE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN CONSIDERING POPERY, IN THIS COUNTRY, A RELIGIOUS AND NOT A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.

No. 1: *Fellow citizens:* The framers of our Constitution, for the purpose of closing up every avenue through which religious intolerance could come in, have introduced a clause, which guarantees to every individual in our land,

the free exercise of his religion. Our revolutionary fathers had in their own minds separated a man's religion from his politics and the religion of the country from all entangling alliances with the state; and they had this distinction and separation in view when they inserted the clause above alluded to, and intended merely to prevent the stepping in of any human authority between the worshiper and His God, to interfere with that spiritual service which Jehovah alone has a right to regulate.

...catholics are considered here merely a religious denomination, like Episcopalian, or Presbyterian, or Methodist, or Baptist, and...they can, under the bland profession of teaching our sons and our daughters religion, not only be permitted to proceed with any political enterprise without suspicion, but can actually draw funds from the American people to aid them in their work...

No. 2. Fellow citizens: The Papal is not like the Christian religion, which [Christian religion] claims to have no kingdom or inheritance in this world, but like the mahometan hierarchy, IT [Papal religion] IS A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, founded in the blood of the patriot and the Christian. That this is indeed the case, may be shown, 1. *From the Organization of the Papal Government.* The Pope is at the head of the establishment, clothed with absolute power, surrounded by a consistory of cardinals, who aid him in the administration of both ecclesiastical and civil government, which are so entirely blended that it is impossible to touch the one without interfering with the other...

...In the Confession of the Catholic Faith, to which all must subscribe, we find the following: "I acknowledge the Holy Catholic Apostolic Roman Church, for the Mother and Mistress of all churches, and I promise true obedience to the Bishop of Rome, successor of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and Vicar of Jesus Christ. I likewise undoubtedly receive all other things, delivered, defined, and declared by the sacred Canons and General Councils, and particularly by the Holy Council of Trent. And I condemn, reject, and anathematize all things contrary thereto; and all things whatsoever, condemned, rejected, and anathematized by the Church."

Here, Americans, you see an organization with a head professing civil jurisdiction, wearing a triple crown, with two swords, administering both spiritual and temporal authority, with his political representatives at every papal court, appointing all the officers for his people in every nation, and making them all, from greatest to least, swear unwavering obedience...

(If Romanists were by and large pro-slavery, and a publisher was coming against both in his weekly.. conclusion?).

12.WC Brownlee

*In the same year(1836) that Elijah Lovejoy was thundering out his revelations about the Papal system in the Alton Observer, Doctor William Craig Brownlee's **Popery, an Enemy to Civil and Religious Liberty** appeared. Brownlee ministered to the Collegiate Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of New York.*

The book is a powerhouse and a wealth of information. I can merely give you some of the introductory words, as the dedication pages, offered to "The American Young Men, the future citizens, and magistrates, and ministers of the United States...

"Young Gentlemen: I come before you not as a sectarian; nor as a polemic. I come before you to beg a hearing on a subject, not only of the deepest interest to our holy religion, but involving, as I verily believe, the very existence of our liberties, and the perpetuity of our Republic.

"In the Roman Catholic religion, we have detected an invading enemy, audaciously conspiring, under the mask of *holy religion*, against the liberties of our country: we have dragged it forward into the light; we have stripped the vizard off its face; and have brought it up to YOUR tribunal, for public judgment in the case.

"It is a system of mere human policy; altogether of foreign origin; foreign in its support; importing foreign vassals; and sending a most baneful foreign influence over us. Its pope, and his priests, are politicians; men of the world, and mere men of pleasure. It is, as a system, in the hands of a foreign despotism, precisely what the Koran is in the hands of the grand Turk, and his muftis. It is a tremendous weapon wielded against peace and good order - the hilt of which is at Rome.

"It is as intolerant in politics as it is in religion; it claims to tax the subjects and citizens of every country; it has interdicted nations; dethroned chief magistrates; dissolved civil governments; suspended commerce; annulled civil laws; and, to gratify its lust of ambition, it has thrown whole nations into utter confusion. It wages a war of extermination against the freedom of the press; and against the rights of human consciences, and the liberties of man. It aims at universal power over the bodies, and souls of all men: and history proclaims that its

weapons have been dungeons; and racks; and chains; and fire and sword! It is *now* annually pouring in upon us, its armies of resolute men,-prelates, priests, monks, nuns, ...And be assured, young men of America, that just as certainly as these shall reach the power which they lust after, in this land, they will enact upon us all the bloody scenes of Roman Catholic Europe; which will make the ears of every American citizen to tingle! Under ALMIGHTY GOD, the protector of our republic, it is in your power, young men of America, to cause *this enemy's 'arm to be clean dried up, and his right eye to be utterly darkened!'*"

And from the introduction:

"Europe has been chained down in mental slavery for more than a thousand years. Popery, and its vassals, the despotic princes, forged those chains, and have rivetted them.

"But a gigantic struggle for liberty, and the rights of man, is now going on there. The holy fire which was so religiously preserved alive on the pure altar of truth, in the darkest ages, by the Christians and gallant spirits who lived in the Alpine valleys, kept up a dim, but steady light, in the midst of the obscurity. It gleamed forth, for a season, in the days of Huss, and Jerome of Prague; it blazed out resplendently at the ever blessed Reformation of Luther. And it is now rolling onward, with an irresistible intensity of light and heat, over every kingdom of Europe. Even Spain is happily beginning to be convulsed, notwithstanding the unparalleled pressure of darkness and priestcraft on her.

"The despotic powers, who facetiously style themselves *The Legitimates*, are summoning to their aid every means which conscious guilt and terror can suggest, to crush the rising spirit of liberty. Their present struggle with the people, is for the retention of their plunder, and the perpetuity of their usurped power. No effort of genius and skill,... no sacrifice of even millions of lives, will be spared to extinguish the last rays of liberty; and to drive the people back to their dungeons, to slumber another generation, in the deathlike stillness of mental slavery...

"May I be permitted one word to those Protestants who are opposed to, or at least, indifferent, to the present national controversy carried on with Popery, by the pulpit, and the press? How can you, as *Christians*, be neutral in this matter? Do you not believe in the Revelation of St. John?

"Sustained by God, and the whole body of the native American Youth, the word *fear* we do not know! Let them fear who will, ere long, feel a nation's wrath; and the terrors of an eternal world! The Protestant's rallying word was uttered in the Diet of Worms,- '**Here I stand: I cannot do otherwise: May God help me; Amen!**' And it is re-echoed from Maine to Georgia, from New York to St. Louis, by every good man!"

New York, November, 1835

That was 160 years ago. The echo is quite silent today. But in our day, Romanism is a greater threat to freedom than ever before, as nearly every church in the nation looks up with awe and respect to the man from Rome. No more the sword or the dungeon is used. Today she uses the Protestant pulpit and magazine to spread her cause.ST

13. Henry Halley

Probably very few of my readers have not heard of Halley's Bible Handbook. It first came out in 1927, and has been a companion book for Bible readers ever since. No one claims perfection for its insights, but it is my conviction that Henry Halley was a servant of the Lord who aided Bible students greatly with his work.

Part of that work was a section on church history that dared, as people of his day were wont to do, tell the truth about Babylon. I give you some of the highlights of this section:

Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire, and made church membership compulsory. This was the worst calamity that has ever befallen the Church. This forced conversion filled the churches with unregenerate people.

Not only so, Theodosius undertook the forcible suppression of all other religions, and prohibited idol worship. Under his decrees, heathen temples were torn down by mobs of Christians, and there was much bloodshed.

Christ had designed to conquer by purely spiritual and moral means. Up to this time conversion was voluntary, a genuine change in heart and life.

But now the military spirit of imperial Rome had entered the Church. The Church had conquered the Roman Empire. But in reality the Roman Empire had conquered the Church, by making the Church over into the image of the Roman Empire.

The Church had changed its nature, had entered its great apostasy, had become a political organization in the spirit and pattern of imperial Rome, and took its nose-dive into the millennium of Papal abominations.

The Imperial Church of the 4th and 5th centuries had become an entirely different institution from the persecuted church of the first three centuries. In its ambition to rule it lost and forgot the spirit of Christ.

Worship, at first very simple, was developed into elaborate, stately, imposing ceremonies having all the outward splendor that had belonged to heathen temples.

Ministers became priests. The term "priest" was not applied to Christian ministers before A.D. 200. It was borrowed from the Jewish system, and from the example of heathen priesthood. (Summarizing the papacy:)

The papacy is an Italian institution. It arose on the ruins of the Roman Empire, in the name of Christ occupying the throne of the Caesars; "the ghost of the Roman Empire come to life in the garb of Christianity."

It brought itself to power through the prestige of Rome, and the name of Christ, and by shrewd political alliances, and by deception, and by armed force...

Through a large part of its history the Papacy, by the sale of ecclesiastical office, and its shameless traffic in indulgences, has received vast revenues that enabled it to maintain the most luxurious court in Europe.

Some of the popes have been good men; some of them unspeakably vile; the most of them have been absorbed in the pursuit of secular power. Yet, in spite of the character of the general run of popes, their methods, and the secular and bloody record of the papacy, these "holy fathers" claim that they are the "vicars of Christ," "infallible," and that they "hold on this earth the place of Almighty God," and that obedience to them is necessary for salvation....

(It is rumored that certain editions of Halley omit his church history. In this day of ecumenism, it certainly makes sense.)

14. J.P. Callender

*Yet another voice from the 19th century is that of author J. P. Callender. In 1888 he published **Illustrations of Popery**. There was no question in any one's mind when he finished this work, that perhaps Brother Callender was a bit "soft" on Rome! It was an age when truth, though despised, was spoken. Here is an excerpt from Chapter IV, "Lying Wonders and Strong Delusions of Popery."*

The prolific source of all those antichristian heresies [delineated in the previous chapter] which the Papists have adopted respecting their ceremonial worship, was this; their perversely depraved solicitude to incorporate the impious superstitions of Paganism with Christianity, as a temptation for the heathen idolaters to submit themselves to the supremacy of the Roman Pontiff.

Constantine, and the Emperors after him, by their profession of the Christian religion, rendered it honorable; and the ancient heathen idolatry having been proscribed by imperial edicts, the temples of the fictitious gods were closed, sacrifices to the idols were abolished, and the pagan superstitions were authoritatively counteracted. Thus many of the opulent Gentiles, for the sake of temporal advantage, assumed the name only of Christians, and speedily the world occupied and controlled the church.

The difficulty of eradicating opinions and habits formed from infancy also aided the increasing evil; for multitudes who thus became united with the Christian church, adhered to all their prior sentiments, and retained their idolatrous and impure ritual. Gradually the external pomp and the gorgeous shows of the Saturnalia and the Bacchanalia excluded Christian simplicity; and by the gradual assimilation of the nominal believers to the usages of the various Barbarians, as well as of the anterior Greeks and Romans, that compound mixture of unprecedented idolatry which characterizes Babylon the Great, was definitively established...

...That conformity of the nominal Christians to the ancient idolaters gradually became more exact and general, until it terminated in the full identity of Popery and Paganism.

Its primitive development was perceptible in reference to the temples erected for the performance of their motley superstitions. The followers of the Italian Pontiff constructed buildings to emulate the Pagan edifices. - 1. In *form* - for the Gothic Cathedrals are similar to the ancient Heathen temples; each containing the vestibule, the portico, the hall, and the choirs; to which the Papists superadded diverging wings in the shape of the cross. 2. In *superstition* - for they were consecrated after the Pagan mode, with aspersions of water. Pilgrimages were made to them, and peregrinations around them; and to complete the similitude, as the Gentiles always dedicated their temples to some one of their demons, after whose name the house was called, Diana, Jove, Mercury, &c.: so the

Paganized Christians dishonored God, the Redeemer, and his church...by denominating their edifices after the real or superstitious *Saint* whom they idolized: Mary, Peter, or Paul...to which they added names of fictitious persons, who never existed, such as Vicar, Roch, Ursula, &c.; thereby to honor and commemorate things without meaning, or the grossest legend, which superstition and imposture could invent.

The next step towards the region of darkness, was exhibited in the erection of altars, after heathenish practice; upon which they immolated their antichristian offerings. From which cause, the semi-heathen Christians began to denominate the table of the Lord, the altar. They also changed the titles Eucharist and Lord's supper into *sacrifice*; and eventually adopted the *Pagan* term, **Mass**. Polydore Virgil narrates, that the Greeks, after the termination of the sacrifices to Isis, were addressed: *laois aphasis*; or as the old Romans: "*Ite missio est. It is ended, go away.*" Whence the priests under the nominal Christian Pontiff, before the celebration of the Eucharist, after they had commingled with it a portion of the Pagan rites, used to address the catechumens - "*Ite, missa est. Go, it is closed.*" From which it is evident, that not only the *unmeaning epithet*, but also the *blasphemous object* itself is Jesuitically purloined from the Gentiles.

After that delusion, next followed the unbloody sacrifice; and conformably to Pagan custom, the unbroken bread, which the Bacchanals offered to their idols; until at length the various theatrical postures and pantomimical acts of the diversified priests of the Pantheon, were conjoined with the Redeemer's sublime, and simple, and spiritual institute. To which, as an essential adjunct, was appended the sacerdotal vestments of white decorated with gold; without which, according to Pagan superstition, and that startling absurdity and corruption exist among avowed Protestants even in the nineteenth century, the impious ceremonial could not accurately be performed.

To gratify the nominal converts from their idolatry, Images were admitted into the churches; which during the first three centuries of Christianity, had never been known. In the fourth century, the Eliberitan Synod adopted the ensuing canon, to exclude all representations of every species, from the house of prayer...but [it] increased; until salutation, kissing, incense, wax lights, and adoration, exactly after the model of the ancient Saturnalia, prevailed...and continue unreformed to this day...

15. J. H. D'Aubigne

In 1883, a History of the Reformation in the Sixteenth Century was produced by Dr. J.H. D'Aubigne. It addresses the issue which Scarlet Threads only feebly tackled (by comparison) in last month's edition. Our thanks to (former priest) Richard Bennett for this selection.

Although we nowhere find in the Gospel any traces of a pre-eminence in St. Peter over the other apostles; although the very idea of primacy is opposed to the fraternal relations which united the disciples, and even to the spirit of the Gospel dispensation, which, on the contrary, calls upon all the children of the Father to be servants to one another, recognizing one only teacher and one only chief; and although Jesus Christ sharply rebuked His disciples, as often as ambitious ideas of pre-eminence arose in their carnal hearts, men invented, and by means of passages of Scripture ill understood, supported a primacy in St. Peter; and then in this apostle, and his pretended successors at Rome, saluted the visible representatives of visible unity- the heads of the Church!

The patriarchal constitution also contributed to the rise of the Roman Papacy. So early as the three first centuries, the churches of metropolitan towns had enjoyed particular respect. The Council of Nice, in its Sixth Canon, singled out three cities, whose churches had, according to it, an ancient authority over those of the surrounding provinces; these were, Alexandria, Rome, and Antioch. The political origin of this distinction is betrayed by the very name which was at first given to the bishop of these cities. He was called Exarch, in the same way as the civil governor. At a later period, the more ecclesiastical name of Patriarch was given to him. This name occurs for the first time in the Council of Constantinople, but in a different sense from that which it received at a later period; for it was only a short time before the Council of Chalcedon, that it was applied exclusively to the great metropolitans. The second ecumenical Council created a new patriarchate, that of Constantinople itself, the new Rome, the second capital of the Empire. The church of Byzantium, so long in obscurity, enjoyed the same privileges, and was put by the Council of Chalcedon in the same rank as the Church of Rome. Rome then shared the patriarchate with these three churches; but when the invasion of Mohammed annihilated the sees of Alexandria and Antioch -when the see of Constantinople decayed, and later, even separated from the west, Rome remained alone, and circumstances rallied all around her see, which from that time remained without a rival. [*here you see the method God used to bring about His will prophesied in Revelation: Only Rome is foreseen as the harlot.st*]

New accomplices, the most powerful of all accomplices, came also to her aid. Ignorance and superstition

seized upon the Church, and gave her up to Rome with a bandage on her eyes, and chains on her hands. Still this slavery was not completed without opposition. Often did the voice of the churches protest their independence: this bold voice was heard especially in proconsular Africa and the East:[*here in a footnote he quotes Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, and Firmilian, Bishop of Caesarea. They are adamantly opposed to the Bishop of Rome and her claims to supremacy!st*]

But Rome found new allies to stifle the cry of the churches. Princes, whom tempestuous times often caused to totter on the throne, offered her their support if she would in turn support them. They offered her spiritual authority, provided she would reinstate them in secular power. They gave her a cheap bargain of souls, in the hope that she would help them to a cheap bargain of their enemies...

Here Rome could not be a loser. An edict of Theodosius II, and of Valentinian III, proclaimed the Bishop of Rome "Rector of the whole Church." These decrees did not contain all that the popes pretended to see in them; but in those times of ignorance it was easy for them to give prevalence to the interpretation which was most in their favor. The power of the emperors in Italy becoming always more precarious, the bishops of Rome failed not to avail themselves of the circumstance to shake off their dependence.

[*he goes on to bury forever the slightest whimper of Rome that she is in some way "supreme" . Bravo! ST*]

16. Loraine Boettner

(*From Roman Catholicism, p.457*)

The condition of the present day Roman Church would seem to be in many ways similar to that of Judaism at the time of Christ. There was much truth in Judaism and there were many sincere believers among the people. But the priesthood was largely indifferent to the needs of the people, as were the ruling classes, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Like the Roman priests, the Jewish priests withheld the Word of God from the people, and their chief concern was their own advancement. The primary opposition that Christ encountered came from the priests, and it was they whom He denounced most severely, as it was also they who were primarily responsible for having Him put to death. Similarly in the Roman Church the priesthood has departed so seriously from the simplicity of the Gospel, and the teachings of the Bible have been so thoroughly covered over with man-made rituals and canon laws that the features of the apostolic church are hardly recognizable. ...(and from p. 449) To an unbelievable extent Rome has apostatized from the faith. While she has been so quick to hurl the epithet "heretic" at others, she herself is honeycombed with heresies...How incredible that a religious system so obviously false as judged by the standard of Scripture should attain such power, hold that power for centuries, and be so widespread as the Roman system is today!

17. William Tyndale

William Tyndale was a 16th-century martyr of England. He was burned at the stake for his stand against Rome. He translated God's Word into English so that all God's people could see the truth. His death is a crying witness to preachers in our day who refuse to expose Romanism for what it is, though no stake threatens them. Yet. Here are some quotes, all taken from *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*.

In response to a statement of a "Doctor of Divinity", that "We were better to be without God's laws than the Pope's," Tyndale said, "I defy the Pope, and all his laws...if God spares me life, ere many years I will cause a boy that driveth a plough to know more of the Scripture than [the Pope]."

"As touching his translation of the New Testament...he wrote to John Frith, as followeth, 'I call God to record against the day we shall appear before our Lord Jesus, that I never altered one syllable of God's Word against my conscience, nor would do this day, if all that is in earth, whether it be honour, pleasure, or riches, might be given me.'"

"Brought forth to the place of execution, he was tied to the stake, strangled by the hangman, and afterwards consumed with fire at the town of Filford, AD 1536; crying at the stake with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice, 'Lord! open the King of England's eyes.'"

18. Charles Spurgeon

The famed “prince of preachers” had a pretty strong opinion about Rome.

It is the bounden duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the church of Rome there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name. If there were to be issued a hue and cry for Antichrist, we would certainly take up this church on suspicion, and it would certainly not be let loose again, for it so exactly answers the descriptive. Popery is contrary to Christ’s Gospel, and is the Antichrist, and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood, and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement, and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Savior, and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Ghost, and puts a fallible man like ourselves up as the vicar of Christ on earth; if we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors: we shall love their souls though we loathe and detest their dogmas, and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened, because we turn our faces towards Christ when we pray.

*I’ve said it before, and I need to say it again. It is my studied opinion that “**the**” antichrist is a political figure purely, who works in conjunction with the “false prophet” of Revelation 13. I do not believe him to be an institution, or a series of persons, but one ultimate Christ-like replica, the Satanic masterpiece, indwelt by the unholy spirit. I believe that he will work in conjunction with a Pope, as past emperors and other world figures have done.*

BUT...it is difficult not to see the Medieval and Reformation Popes in any other light than these old preachers saw them . They sat “in the temple of God” (The church) calling themselves GOD . (Holy Father, etc.)

The Scripture leaves room for many antichrists, many coming in Christ’s name saying they ARE Christ! (Jesus and John both mentioned this phenomenon)

So though I must disagree with Spurgeon in detail, I understand and agree with him in the spirit of what he says. May his tribe increase.

**Look for additions to this booklet in months to come. In fact, your own research may turn up some more classic quotes. Please send them, along with your request for our free mailings to:
Bob Faulkner
aservant@myheartcry.net**