

which (as a recent circular of the Catholic Truth Society well says) 'assail religion in every shape, and advocate in one form or another a social revolution, entailing consequences which no man of sober judgment can contemplate without dismay'. This rationalistic literature, says a writer in the 'Month', is being pumped wholesale over the working classes, and it will have its effects unless we do something to counteract it. We believe that many of those who propagate such literature are by no means aware of the passions which they are unchaining, and the forces of destruction which they are letting loose. But the Church well knows the outcome of such work. It is to be seen to-day in France, with its swelling list of broken marriage bonds, suicides, juvenile crimes, and the rest'.

Much might be done among our people to provide an antidote to the poison by spreading the excellent (and now very cheap) works of Father Gerard, and the admirable publications of the Catholic Truth Society, that expose in a clear and popular way, the un-facts and fallacies of the rationalistic position. This is one effective way of carrying out Newman's idea. The appeal made by the Society for funds for the production and circulation of anti-rationalist literature is one that should appeal with special force to the clergy and to all the members of the laity who are in a position to assist. 'No doubt', says the writer in the 'Month', 'it is a pious and consoling act to bequeath money for the purpose of perpetuating one's memory in a stained-glass window. But just at present we seem to be drifting towards a state of society in which stained-glass windows will be none too safe. It would be well to devote some part of our means to a Society which might do much to stem the rising flood of secularism and lawlessness'.

## Notes

### Anti-Convent Romance

Even a weasel may be caught napping. And the purveyors of anti-convent romance sometimes nod or sleep with both eyes shut. In other words, they forget at times their usual saving precaution, vague and general denunciation, and, in moments of distraction mention names of persons and places. And then trouble almost invariably ensues. On June 1, 1907, an English Socialist paper, 'Justice', published (says the 'Glasgow Observer' of March 7) untrue and libellous statements against the Sisters of Nazareth at Bexhill-on-Sea. 'Scare-heads' told of 'Brutal Treatment to Girls in a Bexhill-on-Sea Convent', 'Girls Strapped and Cold Water Thrown over them', 'Fingers Beaten with a Cane, and other Cruel Punishments'. 'Justice' was promptly brought to book and had publicly to withdraw and apologise. The 'Protestant Alliance Magazine' stored up the slander—and in a moment of somnolence forgot the sequel. It published the slander. And then the band began to play. The result was a complete withdrawal of the story by the 'Alliance Magazine' in its December issue (p. 178), in the following editorial paragraph:—

#### 'NAZARETH HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.'

'We much regret that we have, by reproducing a letter which appeared in the columns of our contemporary, "Justice", been the means of spreading a statement against the above institution which cannot be substantiated. WE UNRESERVEDLY WITHDRAW ANY IMPUTATION contained in the letter, and offer our apologies, being in this case (as in all others) desirous of acting fairly towards every individual when once we discover WE HAVE BEEN IN ERROR.'

A few weeks ago another piece of anti-convent fiction met with a somewhat similar fate in St. Louis,

United States. A shameful caricature, reflecting in an outrageous way on Catholic Sisterhoods, had appeared in the 'Squib' of January 25, 1908. The Federation of Catholic Societies of St. Louis took up the matter. The result was an offer of an apology by the publisher. The Federation insisted upon the apology appearing on the first editorial page of the 'Squib'. In its issue of March 14, it appeared in the following terms:—

#### 'AN APOLOGY.'

'St. Louis, March 14, 1908.

'Mr. Anthony Matre, Chairman of Committee on Relations, Federation of Catholic Societies of St. Louis.

'Dear Sir,—The owners and publishers of "Squib" regret very much that the cartoon which appeared in the issue of January 25th, 1908, entitled "Viewed Behind the Scenes and Sharing the Blood Money of the Poor", was ever published, and we hereby make all proper apologies to the Catholic Sisterhoods and to our Catholic fellow-citizens for permitting the said cartoon to figure on the pages of our publication.

'NORBERT J. VOREL,

'Publisher of "Squib".'

### Another Romance

Even the worm will turn. From time to time we have shown how the slandered religious in Italy have successfully brought to book sundry lewd fellows of the baser sort—almost invariably the editors of anti-Catholic and anti-Christian newspapers—who were banded together in what was clearly an organised campaign of defamation. The latest case in point is recorded in the Rome correspondence of the Philadelphia 'Catholic Standard' of April 4. It referred to alleged horrifying 'disclosures' published against the religious of S. Francesco della Vigna in Venice. 'These priests', says the 'Standard' correspondent, 'were accused in the "Secolo Nuovo", edited by Giuseppe Abele, a well-known Socialist of that city, and they lost no time in giving that worthy an excellent opportunity of proving in a public court of justice the abominable charges. You can guess the result. The editor was sentenced by the tribunal to suffer imprisonment for two years and to pay, in addition, a fine of two thousand francs. Perhaps the most interesting part of the story is that Abele did not await the conclusion of the trial. Seeing himself about to be unmasked, he fled the city secretly, and has not since been heard of. And thus ends another chapter of the "clerical scandals of Italy" which had been described in certain journals in all the false details that impure imaginations and foul minds could string together.'

It is from the envenomed stories of gentry like the fugitive Giuseppe Abele that a certain notorious purveyor of 'missionary tales' periodically 'exposes' the 'Romish' Church in Italy, to credulous English and Scottish audiences at so much per 'expose'—a silver coin collection' or 'front seats one shilling, back seats sixpence'.

## 'CATHOLIC MARRIAGES'

### FURTHER APPRECIATIONS

From the Archbishop of Wellington.

We have been favored with the following kind communication from his Grace the Archbishop of Wellington and Metropolitan of New Zealand in reference to the 'Tablet' book, 'Catholic Marriages':—

Wellington,

May 22, 1908.

'My dear Father Cleary,

'The priests and the Catholic body generally are much indebted to you for your interesting, very instructive, and most useful book on "Catholic Marriages". I trust it will have a large circulation. Please send me two dozen copies. The composition of the book shows a good deal of most painstaking labor, and its publication is most opportune, containing, as it does, the very information required by