

THE PALMERSTON CONTROVERSY

SOME THINGS THE PUBLIC ARE DYING TO KNOW FROM THE REV. MR. CLARKE

The following letter from the Rev. Father J. Lynch appeared in the *Palmerston and Waikouaiti Times* of June 27:—

'Sir,—Here I leave the Catholic teaching on this question, deeming its evident mildness and charity its own defence. I could have marshalled some hundreds of witnesses, all unanimous in explaining the much-abused axiom in a most charitable manner. What I have given should be more than sufficient to convince all decent and fair-minded men of the Church's attitude towards the salvation of non-Catholics. For, as Dryden says, "Truth has such a face and such a mien that to be loved need only to be seen" (*Hind and Panther*).

'Unfortunately, non-Catholics see or hear very little of the genuine and official teaching of the Catholic Church. Thus, when we remember that Protestantism for the last three hundred years has been little more than a campaign of calumny against the Catholic Church; when we call to mind the vile and detestable tactics of such anti-Pope institutions as the Protestants' Alliance in fraudulently manufacturing lying accusations against Catholics and their faith; when we bear in mind that average Protestants never read a Catholic book wherein Catholic teaching is explained, but depend for their information on the rabid rantings of pulpit-preaching, pur-blind, Pope-pounding parsons—then indeed we Catholics are constrained by Christian charity to look upon them with countenances more in sorrow than in anger. I charged Rev. Mr. Clarke with controversial dishonesty, and have proved my charges. I have asked him again and again to give a straightforward answer to clear, direct, and relevant questions. He has not done so. With woeful reiteration he has trumped up again and again the same old quotation from the Creed. Only this and nothing more. His attempts to convict the Catholic Church of intolerance have only served to plunge him still deeper in the pit into which I at first decoyed him. (1) I want to know, and every candid, honest man in this district wants to know: What right had Rev. Mr. Clarke to accuse the Catholic Church of intolerance because of her

axiom while it is laid down in the pages of his own Presbyterian *Confession of Faith* that the Scottish Kirk "is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation"? (*Confession of Faith*, ch. xxv., p. 105.) These are plain and unmistakable words. (2) I want to know why does not Rev. Mr. Clarke accuse his friend John Calvin, the real founder and father of Presbyterianism, of intolerance, seeing that Calvin wrote in the fourth book of his *Institutions* these words: "*Outside the Church we can not hope for remission of sins or for salvation*"? (3) I want to know why does not Rev. Mr. Clarke denounce the intolerance of a Calvinist catechism of the seventeenth century wherein we read the following: "*Outside the Church there is only damnation; all who separate from the communion of the faithful to form a sect apart should not hope for salvation so long as they remain thus separated*"? (4) I want to know why Rev. Mr. Clarke is not horrified at the words of the Helvetic *Confession of Faith* of 1565: "*There is no salvation outside the Church, any more than there was outside the Ark*." The Saxon and Belgian *Confessions of Faith* have similar words. It is a pity that Rev. Mr. Clarke could not see his way to mind his own affairs and set his own Presbyterian household in order before he took upon himself the duty of lecturing Catholics on charity and toleration. The ridiculous position wherein he now finds himself may for the future make him withhold his traducer's pen. If the commandment of God and Christian charity do not restrain him from bearing false witness against his neighbor (the Catholic Church), at least discretion and common sense should. It never pays to make oneself ridiculous except one be an expert comedian and adopts farce and caricature as a profession. But no one ever looks for comedy or humor from a Presbyterian parson. Gloomy Calvinism has killed all that long ago. Hence I give Mr. Clarke the advice of the old frog to the young one: "Look before you leap."

'J. LYNCH, P.P.

'Catholic Presbytery, June 11.

The following somewhat cruel letter from a Presbyterian layman, which appeared in the same issue of the Palmerston paper, may be considered as administering the final *coup de grace* to the hapless Palmerston pastor:—

Our Great Winter Fair of up-to-date Men's Wear opens Saturday, June 28

This Great Sale will attract crowds of men, and women, too (because the ladies buy for their husbands and children). This is a real chance to save money on men's, youths' and boys' clothing, hats, shirts, collars, ties, socks, underclothing, etc. etc.

It will pay you to be here early and often—we are out to clear our Winter Stocks. If the price will do it—then it's going to be done. Now's your chance. Come right along.

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