

THE AMERICAN

Julian.

Mr. PEYI: The man whose name I have at the head of this letter today, is known as Julian, the apostate. At the same time, a man who desires to give every person his just due, has written, "On the throne of the Cesare, Julian had displayed talents and virtues such as had not adorned it since the time of Marcus Aurelius." Julian was a nephew of Constantine and was one of the two fortunate relatives whom the three sons of Constantine I did not put to death. He commenced his reign at a time when there was a sad state of affairs on account of the evils resulting from the union of state and church. He felt that the deed done by the sons of Constantine should be punished. He assumed to be in sympathy with Emperor Constantine but at a time when he thought he could make a successful attempt at becoming the ruler he made an attempt and did succeed, although it was but for a short time, and when he died, it is said of him, "He threw dust in the air and said 'Thou hast conquered, O Galilean'."

The evil resulting from a union of church and state is that men who desire lucrative positions unite with the church that there may be a political position waiting for them. The method adopted by Constantine the Great would not have a tendency to separate paganism entirely from the Christian church. Constantine was not baptized until just before his death. If he had so much zeal for Christ why was this sacrament omitted so long? I call your attention to this, my friend, that you may think of it when you are told that the Roman Catholic church is the only church and the mother of all churches. It is a fact that Julian was deceived as to the power and merits of heathenism; otherwise he probably would never have made the attempt. He can never be justified in his course, yet we cannot but see the providence of God in it, in punishing the sons of Constantine the Great, for their unchristian act.

Now, my friend, let us look at this emperor who is called an apostate, and see if there is any similarity between him and the church which has asked you to be their leader.

1. Julian aimed at placing paganism in the most prominent place in the empire. Is not the church which asked you to be their pose doing the same thing? There are many arguments which might be brought to substantiate this statement, and I will simply call your attention to one. What has become of the second commandment in your church? All the time while the Romish church is claiming her right as mother of all churches, she is Julian with a pack of paganism on her back, and comes to us children and says, "My dear faithful, now I love you. I have in my power which is on my back, an unending supply of indulgences which I only have the authority to dispense to you."

2. As Julian, the Roman Catholics will not fight against odds; they will not depend upon God and have confidence that on account of doing his will he will make their small numbers successful over many, but will wait until it would seem strange, to mortal man, if they did not succeed and then they will depend upon their united human strength and fight. All the time Julian was acting as a friend and as an assistant of Constantine, he knew the time had not come for him to make a stand against the man who was then in the chair.

3. As Julian, the Roman Catholics—especially the Jesuits—do not tell all they know or intend to do. While Julian acting as a friend to the emperor, and the emperor had confidence in him, the apostate was the worst enemy he had in the Roman empire. He was deceitful, treacherous. I will not make any charges, my friend, but as you read this, think of the time when you wished to leave Rome and go to your residence in the country, when your health hinted that it would be advisable for you to take this step. You will call enough to your mind that it will not be necessary for me to say more.

4. Julian was surprised there was not more power in paganism to redeem itself. The Romanists are keeping the Bible from all the people they possibly can and where it is permitted it is caused by certain circumstances; if they prohibited it they would be afraid their followers would become dissatisfied and accept the Protestant religion. But if the Romanists have not found it out already, they will find it out sometime, there is very little inherent power in the semi-paganism which they claim is the only true church. It came down through the hands of emperors (as well as popes) who were not conspicuous for their honesty of purpose or sanctity.

5. And at the end, Julian threw dust in the air and exclaimed "Thou hast conquered! O Galilean." We are waiting to see the time when Roman Catholics will throw dust into the air and exclaim, "Thou hast conquered! O Galilean." There have been thousands who have found the proper way of serving Jesus and with pleasure they have made this statement, but when will the church as a church take the position of Julian and exclaim that the man whom they were professing to honor and worship had conquered them?

Now, my friend, as we think of this man, who has not a friend in Christendom, and compare with him the church, which has been marred by its association with the state, are you not ready to protest against her many inconsistencies? If you do not wish to do that, why do you not let another take the yoke from your shoulders? You are growing old and you have but a short time to make your preparation for the world to come. There may be Roman Catholics who think it their duty to hold to the doctrines of the Romish church, even if the pope were to go to hell and if he were to take thousands with him on account of believing in his semi-pagan religion; but I hope the number of Romanists who are willing to accept this view is small. But the faith of these will not aid the pope and the followers who go to hell, and I would not desire to be in that pope's place and I hope you would not.

My advice to you, my friend, is to make Jesus Christ your patron saint (if you wish to put it that way) and stop this pagan nonsense. Yours truly,

ALEPH.

Villas' Idea.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 16.—United States Senator William F. Vilas, in a letter to the *Catholic Citizen*, made public today, declares the American Protective Association a menace to the public. He says every citizen should be opposed to it.

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