

Protestant Press Bureau.**The Church of Rome
and Woman.**

THE following choice sentiments are taken from a Roman Catholic priest's manual, "Directorium Sacerdotale: A *Guide* for Priests in their Public and Private Life," by Father F. B. Valuy, S.J. (Society of Jesus). The volume before us is in its fifth edition, "thoroughly revised," was published in 1898 by the well-known Dublin Roman Catholic publishers, Messrs. M. H. Gill and Son, and bears the imprimatur of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. (The fourteenth edition of the work in French was published in Paris in 1865. The teaching set forth in its pages is that of the Jesuits in all parts of the world.) In a letter to the editor the Bishop of Shrewsbury expresses his wish that "every ecclesiastical student had to learn the book by heart." At p. 68, under the heading of "DANGEROUS CONNECTIONS," one reads:—

"What is woman? S. Jerome [342-420 A.D.] gives the answer: 'She is the gate by which the devil enters, the road that leads to sin; she is what the sting of the scorpion is.' And in another place he says: 'Woman is a fire, man the tow, and the devil the bellows.' S. Maximus [580-662 A.D.] writes of a woman: 'She makes shipwreck of men, she is a tyrant who leads them captive, a lioness who holds them fast in her embraces, a syren decked out to lure them to destruction, a malicious, evil beast.' And S. Anastasius the Sinaite: 'She is a laboratory of devils, a flaming furnace, a javelin wherewith the heart is pierced, a storm by which houses are overthrown, a guide leading to darkness, a teacher of all evil, an unbridled tongue speaking evil of the saints.' S. Bonaventure [1221-1274] writes: 'A fair woman tricked out with her finery is a keen and sharp-edged sword in the hands of the devil.' And Cornelius à Lapide [Jesuit, died 1637] adds: 'Her glance is that of the fabled basilisk, her voice a syren's voice—with her voice she enchants, with her beauty she deprives of reason,—voice and sight alike deal destruction and death.'"

Roman Catholic lay apologists, ashamed of the teaching of their "infallible" Church, assert that the foregoing descriptions apply to a certain class of women only. Valuy's book makes it quite clear that *all* women are included in the unchristian and untrue denunciations.

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Father Valuy might have added to the number of his authorities. St. Bernard said that "Woman is the organ of the devil." St. Gregory: "Woman has the asp's venom and the dragon's malice." St. Chrysostom: "Woman is the sworn enemy of friendship, a miserable penalty, a necessary evil, a natural temptation, a domestic peril, a delectable harm. Of all ferocious beasts not one is more dangerous than a woman." St. Cyprian: "Woman is the envenomed birdlime with which the devil catches souls." Lastly, St. Paulinus declared that "there are few good women, and the man who regards his happiness had better keep out of their way."—From "La Femme jugée par l'Homme," Paris, 1858. p. 15, as quoted by Rev. Dr. J. R. Beard, "The Confessional," p. 45.

A Roman Catholic layman wrote to the *Catholic Times* and the *Universe* of March 8th, 1918, protesting against the offensive article on woman in the standard Catholic Encyclopædia. We quote the indignant one's letter:—"It is written by a Father Rössler, an Austrian, I believe, and he is imbued with the notion that woman is fundamentally inferior to man. He says so in so many words: 'The female sex is in some respects inferior to the male sex, both as regards body and soul!' Could anything be more monstrous, untrue and degrading? It is a blot on the Catholic Church as long as it remains in the Encyclopædia for the world to read what the Church is *supposed* (!) to think of women."

Father Rössler, like Father Valuy, has no doubt been taught in the seminary to take a low view of woman. The layman is simply wasting his time in playing the part of a Protestant and is up against his Church, which forbids the laity to discuss matters religious. She, and NOT the laity, has the last word. Father Rössler's article has passed the theological censor, while the Encyclopædia bears the imprimatur of Cardinal J. Fahey, Archbishop of New York.

Marked copies of the first edition of this tract were forwarded to Cardinals Bourne and Gasquet, Father B. Vaughan, S.J. (who describes Protestantism as "a soulless religion"), Monsignor J. H. Grosch, Canon G. Higgins, C.R.L., and other Roman Catholic priests; but not one word of repudiation has come from any of these celibates. One wonders what members of Roman Catholic Suffrage Societies think of the teaching of their "infallible" Church concerning themselves? Taking a wider view of the matter, **how will women vote at the poll when the candidate for Parliamentary or other honours happens to belong to the man-insulting and woman-vilifying Church of Rome?**

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