

CHAPTER XXXVIII

A Vindication

I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me. 2 Cor. 12: 2.

Paul, being calumniated by false disciples, felt bound to vindicate himself and to show how fully his apostolic position was evidenced by his life and his fruitful labors.

False disciples having yet the same method of attack as those in the time of Paul, must be fought with the same weapons as those of the apostle.

Again and again since my conversion to Protestantism I have read in the Roman Catholic press that no respectable Protestant would have anything to do with me. Such slanders were specially current about the year 1892, and formed a part of a great scheme plotted by the Roman Catholic clergy of Canada, no doubt the evident purpose of which was to take away my honour, to kill me morally, seeing that the various attempts to take away my life had been frustrated.

It was so manifestly the case that even newspapers could not help noticing it.

If you look in the file of the *Montreal Witness* for the year 1892, you can read in an editorial of the 10th of March the following item:

“We see by an Iowa paper that Mr. Chiniquy is lecturing there and that he is pursued by carefully concocted slander of the vilest kind, which would appear to have been furnished by some slander bureau in Canada.

“Such attacks, when publicly made where Mr. Chiniquy is known, are comparatively harmless, as he is well able to shame his slanderers, and they only furnish him with a more

effective text. It is a sufficient answer to such abuse that though he has been similarly vilified ever since he left the Church of Rome, he is still, as he has been for over twenty years, a minister in good standing of the Presbyterian Church of Canada."

A Roman Catholic under the name of *Kentucky Ben* having published in that same paper similar stupid slanders, I thought I was in duty bound to write and publish an answer. As many new facts and events of my forty years in the Church of Christ are brought out in that answer, I judge it proper to insert it in this book.

"Editor of *The Witness*:

"Sir:—If your Protestant readers have had as much pleasure as myself in perusing the last article of my Roman Catholic friend, 'Kentucky Ben,' they will unite with me in addressing him our public thanks. For that correspondent does not touch a single point of the subject of the controversy. In order to enjoy the pleasure of personal abuse and slander, he has not only given to your readers the best proof that my arguments were unanswerable, but he has also shown what kind of honesty and truthfulness we must expect when arguing with a Roman Catholic.

"Yes! let your readers see again his first article and my answer, with his last reply; and they will find that no attempt has been made to touch a single one of my arguments. And why so? It is simply because Roman Catholics, being unable to meet us on the fair ground of argument, are forced to shift the questions, and they resort to abuse, of which they always have a rich stock. Finding himself utterly incapable of denying or of refuting the blasphemous and idolatrous teachings of his Church, which I had copied word by word from his most approved authors, he thought that he would forever crush me into atoms by calling me 'apostate,' and by assuring you that 'No respectable

Protestant . . . would associate with him' (Chiniquy). But, as he has not deigned to give any proof of my public degradation and rejection from the company and intercourse with respectable Protestants, I will fill that gap and give you a few facts which will show that not only 'Kentucky Ben,' but that all the Bishops and priests of Canada, with the whole Roman Catholic press of Montreal and Quebec, are honest when they proclaim from morning till night these last thirty years that the apostate Chiniquy is so degraded that 'No respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

"Surely, they will be grateful to me for giving them the unanswerable proofs of that supreme degradation, under the burden of which I am crushed to the ground.

"First Fact: A few months after my conversion from Romanism to the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, my people of St. Anne, Illinois, were visited in 1859 by a terrible calamity. They lost their crops, and they had not enough to live on two months. The ministers and people of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Plattsburg, Springfield, Chicago, Lafayette and many other cities, having heard of that calamity, invited me to go and address them. During the three months I spoke to these people, the large churches and the immense halls were never large enough for the multitudes who wanted to hear me. Those multitudes not only wanted to have a little talk with the infamous apostate Chiniquy—but they wanted to press his hand—and when pressing his hands, they let \$75,000 slip into them as a public token of their horror and contempt for him. Those \$75,000 not only saved my dear colony of St. Anne from a sure ruin, but they became the first irrefutable proof that Chiniquy was so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.

"Second Fact: The next year, 1860, was the three hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation of Scotland. An evangelical festivity such as the world had never seen was prepared in Edinburgh, to which the most prominent Protes-

tant ministers and laymen were invited. The committee appointed to make those invitations in the name of the Scotch people were Rev. Doctors Guthrie, Cunningham and Begg. These gentlemen wrote me a most polite invitation to go and attend their grand meeting in Edinburgh. When I arrived in the midst of that venerable assembly, there were such cries of joy, such clapping of hands, such stamping of feet, such manifestations of joy that, for a long time, it was impossible for me or anybody else to say a word. Though the rule had been passed that no orator should speak more than once, I was asked and forced to speak three times. After the assembly, four hundred of the principal ministers pressed me to go and address their people and I spent six months lecturing in the cities of London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bath, Manchester, Brompton, Sheffield, Oxford, Edinburgh, Armagh, Kingstown, Queenstown, York, etc. To show me further their supreme contempt for my person and my work, as proclaimed by Mr. 'Kentucky Ben,' they gave me \$25,000 before I left their noble country, for my humble labour.

“Third Fact: When I was lecturing in Glasgow, the richest merchant of that city, John Henderson, invited me to his magnificent mansion that I might take a few days of rest. The second day he invited a great number of the ministers of Glasgow to a soir e, at the end of which he presented me with a purse filled with \$2,000 in gold, that Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' and the whole Roman Catholic people might understand and publish that 'the apostate Chiniquy was so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

“Fourth Fact: When I was lecturing in Great Britain, the Synod of the Free Protestant Church of France, which was held at St. Etienne, invited me, through their illustrious president, Frederic Monod, to attend their meetings. I accepted that honour. I went to St. Etienne and addressed that venerable Church of France twice, that I might give a

proof to Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' that no respectable Protestant would have anything to do with the infamous apostate Chiniquy.

"Fifth Fact: When I went back to my colony of St Anne, Illinois, in 1861, I was the witness of the terrible civil war between the North and the South of the United States. As I was the personal friend of President Abraham Lincoln, I used to visit him every year in his grand white mansion at Washington, and that illustrious man each time overwhelmed me with the marks of his esteem. But the last time he gave me such a grand proof of it that I think it is my duty here to tell it. It was on the 8th of June, 1864, he told me:

"'To-morrow afternoon I will receive the delegation of the deputies of all the loyal states sent to officially announce the desire of the country that I should remain the President four years more. I invite you to be present with them at that interesting meeting. You will see some of the most prominent men of our Republic, and I will be happy to introduce you to them. You will not present yourself as a delegate of the people, but only as the guest of the President, and, that there may be no trouble, I give you this card with a permit to enter with the delegation. But do not leave Washington before I see you again. I have some important matter on which I want to know your mind.'

"And the next day that infamous apostate Chiniquy was put the first at the right hand of the Protestant President of the United States, and introduced by him to the most illustrious Protestants of that great Republic, that my friend, 'Kentucky Ben,' and all his compeers in the Church of Rome might have the right to proclaim to their people, that the 'apostate Chiniquy is so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

"Sixth Fact: In 1874 the whole Protestant people of England wanted to congratulate the German Emperor and his Prime Minister, Bismarck, for the noble rebuke they had given to the Pope, when he (the Pope) had so insolently written to

the Emperor that, because he had been baptized, he ought to consider himself a spiritual subject of the Pope.

"A grand meeting was convoked at the splendid Exeter Hall of London, when the best Protestant orators of the time were selected to speak and prepare the address which was to be put into the hands of the German ambassador for his Emperor.

"Well, the committee of organization of the memorable assembly requested me in a polite letter to go again to England to address that meeting, and I went. I spoke there twice in the presence of all England's noblest Protestant sons and daughters.

"These providential and surely unmerited honours were given me that the Bishops and priests of Rome might proclaim with all their trumpets and through Mr. 'Kentucky Ben,' that the 'apostate Chiniquy was so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

"*Seventh Fact:* I forgot to mention that the first time I addressed the people of London in their immense Exeter Hall, the crowd was so great that thousands of people had been unable to enter. That the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon had introduced me to the people of that great metropolitan city of England, and that the Viceroy, one of the greatest heroes of India, Sir John Lawrence, had consented to act as the president of that meeting. These three facts prove to a certainty that the priests of Rome and Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' are perfectly honest when they assure their people that the 'apostate Chiniquy is so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

"*Eighth Fact:* The second time I was invited to go to England in order to congratulate the Emperor of Germany, in 1874, two hundred ministers requested me not to leave their country before addressing their people on the errors and idolatries of the Church of Rome. And I spent again six months in lecturing on those sad subjects in one hundred and twenty of the cities of Great Britain. The noble Protestant people gave me again \$28,000 as the expression of

their Christian sympathies, that the whole world might know that the priests of Rome and Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' are perfectly honest when they say that I was so degraded in the eyes of the Protestants that no respectable person would have anything to do with me.

"Ninth Fact: When I returned from that second excursion to England the grand Presbyterian Church of Canada wanted me to leave my dear mission of Illinois in order to preach to my French-Canadian countrymen of Canada. They rented a good, comfortable house in Montreal for me and my family, and gave me a sum of money much above my merit for my work. In unity and under the supervision of that grand Presbyterian Church, I laboured from 1874 to 1878 in Canada with such an admirable success that four thousand French-Canadians of Montreal and vicinity left the errors and idolatries of Rome to accept the Gospel of Christ, and they formed several congregations of converts. I stopped that work only when, being quite exhausted, I was ordered by my physician to go and take the bracing air of the Pacific Ocean in 1878.

"During these four years almost all the ministers of Montreal had requested me to address their people, and it was my privilege to speak in Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, London, Guelph, Sarnia, Windsor, Quebec, Halifax, St. John's, N. B., Peterboro, Muskoka, Ottawa, Bothwell, Belleville, Brockville, Dundas, Hamilton, and two hundred and fifty other cities and towns.

"These facts are evidence again that the priests of Rome and 'Kentucky Ben' are perfectly honest when they proclaim and publish that I was so degraded that the Protestants who have any respect for themselves would have nothing to do with me.

"Tenth Fact: In 1878, when preparing to go and breathe the bracing atmosphere of the Pacific Ocean, I providentially received a kind letter from the Rev. George Sutherland, D. D., pastor of one of the richest and most influential congre-

gations of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He invited me in the name of the Protestant people of that distant land to go and visit them. There was a bank-note in that letter of \$500 to help me to pay my traveling expenses, and to help Mr. "Kentucky Ben" and all the priests of Rome to prove that the infamous apostate Chiniquy was so degraded that no respectable Protestant would associate with him.

Eleventh Fact: When the principal Protestants of Sydney heard that the steamer which was taking me to their young, but already so grand country, was in sight, they engaged a steamer to come and receive me in triumph, at a distance of twelve miles, that the honest priests of the Church of Rome, with 'Mr Kentucky Ben,' might have a good opportunity to publish that the apostate Chiniquy's moral degradation is so well known to the whole world that 'no respectable Protestant would associate with him.'

Twelfth Fact: I spent two years in Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. All that time the Protestant ministers and people overwhelmed me with public and personal tokens of the kindest Christian respect and feeling. I dare say they took me in triumph from one extremity to the other of their vast countries. Having known from the most reliable sources that there was a plot among the Roman Catholics to murder me, they put a guard, almost every night for more than a year, of twelve and twenty men to protect me. Their large churches and halls were never large enough for the multitudes who wanted to see and hear me. Several times they fought like lions, and several were wounded when they wanted to repulse the blind Roman Catholics sent by the priests to kill me. In Hobert Town, they requested the Governor of Tasmania to use a militia force in order to protect and save my life. I gave seven hundred addresses, lectures and sermons to those dear and noble Protestant friends whom my God had given me in those distant lands, and they gave me \$40,000 as a token of their kind feelings when I was in their midst; and it is in the presence of those

public facts that Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' repeats what he hears every day from the lips of his priests and what he reads in their daily and weekly press: "That the apostate Chiniquy's moral degradation is such that no respectable Protestant would associate with him."

"Thirteenth Fact: At the June meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of 1889, some members having said that in a few days Father Chiniquy was to celebrate his eightieth anniversary, there was such a burst of applause as I never heard before. Rev. Dr. MacVicar, president of the Presbyterian College of Montreal, and Rev. Dr. Warden, secretary-treasurer, moved that the whole assembly should give me a vote of congratulation as a public token of their esteem. After that vote was unanimously given he asked the General Assembly to invite me to write a new book under the name of "Thirty Years in the Church of Christ," as a sequel to my last book, 'Fifty Years in the Church of Rome,' and this vote was passed unanimously in the midst of the greatest enthusiasm and good feelings I ever saw. And it is only a few days after such public facts that all the echoes of the Church of Rome proclaim what the priests and the Bishops and their press say with Mr. 'Kentucky Ben': 'that the apostate Chiniquy's degradation is so complete that no Protestant who has any self-respect would associate with him.'

"Fourteenth Fact: When in England in 1860, great receptions were given me by some of the most eminent Protestants of Great Britain. I will mention only a few for the edification of the Bishops and priests of Rome, who constantly assure their people that my degradation is as complete among the Protestants as it is among the Roman Catholics. The first invitation was from Dr. Tait, Lord Bishop of London, who was soon after named the Primate of England and raised to the highest dignity of the Church of England by being named Archbishop of Canterbury. That grand reception was given me in the historical Palace of

Lambeth, where I was surrounded by some of the most prominent men of the Protestant Church, among whom was the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas, now Bishop of Geelong, Australia. The second reception given me which I will mention was by Lord Gainsborough, whose wife was the first attending lady of the Queen of England. At his table and in his magnificent salon I was surrounded by the elite of the nobility of Great Britain. They spent the evening by questioning me about the superstitions and idolatries of Rome, and the hope I had of seeing the dear people of Canada following the example of England by breaking the heavy and ignominious yoke of the Pope; they really overwhelmed me with the tokens of their kind and Christian feeling. In the course of the evening, Lady Gainsborough invited a young duchess to go round her noble guests to receive the offerings they wished to give me for the support of my mission among my countrymen, and she brought me two hundred and fifty gold guineas, that Mr. 'Kentucky Ben,' and all the Bishops, cardinals and priests of Rome, with their truth-loving press, might have good reasons to publish that the apostate Chiniquy was so degraded that no Protestant who had any self-respect would have any thing to do with him.

"I might speak of the other receptions given me by Lord Roden, by Sir Arthur Kinnaird, M. P. for Edinburgh, and many others, but I suppose that my intelligent readers have got proofs enough to convince them that the priests and Bishops of Rome with Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' are real gentlemen and most honest, fair-play-loving men, when they tell you that the infamous apostate Chiniquy is so degraded that no respectable Protestants have ever consented to have intercourse with him since he left the Holy(?) Catholic(?) and Apostolic(?) Church of Rome.

"Fifteenth Fact: However, there is another fact which so clearly shows that the Bishops and the priests of Rome, with Mr. 'Kentucky Ben,' are honest, reliable and lovers of truth

when they speak of the apostate Chiniquy, that I cannot omit it.

“Since my God has opened my eyes to the corruption, superstitions and idolatries of Rome, I have considered it my duty to publish, not all—it would be too horrible—but a part of the mysteries and iniquities which I saw when within the walls of that modern Babylon, and I have written a good number of pamphlets and books—among the principal of which are: ‘The Priest, the Woman and the Confessional’; and ‘Fifty Years in the Church of Rome.’ Well, to prove their supreme contempt, the Protestant nations of Europe and America have translated my books into their languages, and they have bought a prodigious number of them. They have been translated into the languages of Italy, France, Spain, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, and Bohemia.

“The ‘Priest, the Woman and the Confessional’ is in its fiftieth edition, though it was published for the first time in 1874; and ‘Fifty Years in the Church of Rome’ is at its twentieth edition, though published in 1884. Two hundred thousand copies of my lectures have already been sold, and more than 100,000 copies of ‘The God of Rome Eaten by a Rat’ have been bought in England, and still more on the continent of America. More than a million, then, of my books and pamphlets have been purchased by the Protestants within twenty years, to show to the priests of Rome that they are perfectly true, honourable and honest, when they assure you that the apostate Chiniquy’s degradation is so well known that no Protestant who has any self-respect would have anything to do with him.

“*Sixteenth Fact*: When in the month of January, 1883, I was lecturing in London, I received the visit of Lord Shaftesbury, who presented me an invitation from the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to attend their grand meeting on the 5th of February. When a priest of Rome very often I had read the encyclicals of the infallible Pope of Rome, assuring me that the Bible Society was one of the

most infernal inventions of the devil; that the men engaged in circulating the Bible were the instruments of the devil, and that next to the devil they were the enemies of God; and I had to believe it then, just as Mr. 'Kentucky Ben' with all his priests has to believe it now. Had I had any self-respect or a spark of religion, I would have rejected with horror a message coming from such degraded men, particularly when it was brought to me by such a vile Protestant as Lord Shaftesbury. But, alas, I was then as degraded as I am to-day, and I accepted the invitation. The 5th of February, 1883, I was in the midst of those infamous heretics who, according to His Holiness, the infallible Pope of Rome, are so blindly the enemies of God and His Son Jesus Christ that they circulate His soul-destroying word all over the world. I gave them an address, of which they ordered 100,000 copies to be scattered all over Great Britain. Through that address, finding that I was as depraved as they were themselves in reference to the Bible, they, by unanimous vote, elected me one of the governors and rulers of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and now you can see my name in the very midst of those wicked men.

"After such a proof of my degradation, I hope your readers will easily admit that Mr. 'Kentucky Ben,' his Bishops and priests are true gentlemen and lovers of the truth, when they have proclaimed these thirty years, throughout the whole world, that the apostate Chiniqy is so degraded that no honest Protestant would have anything to do with him.