

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Church Unity and Creeds. Toronto, Feb. 18.—(To the Editor) Archbishop Duvernet has, I think, wisely directed our attention to one of the principal causes of discord in the Christian church, viz., the proneness of all parts of the church to multiply articles of faith.

At a very early period in the history of the Christian church the necessity of explaining in a little more detail what is meant by believing in Christ seems to have forced itself upon Christian teachers, and we have as a result the so-called "Apostles' Creed" and later as the result of the Nicene and Constantinian Councils the creed we call "The Nicene Creed," and still later the Athanasian Creed. These creeds, it will be seen, deal with the facts concerning the person and work of Christ as set forth in the Scriptures, and the necessary deductions therefrom, and, as a necessary consequence, with the two other persons of the Holy Trinity. The earlier creeds contain no declaration as to the necessity of their acceptance as a condition of salvation, but the Athanasian Creed contains a clause, "this is the Catholic faith which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved." Still later that large

and important part of the Christian church, which is called "the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church," framed a number of additions to the Nicene Creed which are embodied (1) in the Creed of Plus IV, circ. 1564; (2) in the decree of Plus IX of 1854, regarding the alleged immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and (3) in the decree of the Vatican Council in 1870 regarding the alleged infallibility of Popes.

The creed of Plus IV, winds up with the statement that it is the Catholic faith of which there is no salvation. These additions to the Nicene Creed which have thus been made in the Roman part of the church have not been received or accepted by any other part of the Christian church, and they constitute a bar to unity between Roman Catholics and all other Christians. That being so the practical question is, how are these various extraordinary articles of faith the acceptance of which the Roman part of the church has declared to be essential to salvation to be got rid of? All Roman Catholics are taught to believe that all Popes of Rome when they teach the whole church are infallible, consequently the creed of Plus IV, and the decrees of Plus IX, and the Vatican council are, according to Romanists, to be regarded by all Christians as infallible and consequently irrefragable.

This being the attitude of Roman Catholics, the outlook for any union of Protestants with them except by the latter's acceptance of the various additions the Roman part of the church has made to the Nicene Creed seems hopeless. Nevertheless, it may not really be quite as hopeless as it looks. The method of opposing the Roman views in the past has been too often one of violent denunciation; we have forgotten that the great mass of Roman Christians are just as earnest as we are, and many of them are possibly more earnest than many Protestants in the pursuit of salvation. They inherit a traditional system which has many centuries of continuous use to be relied on for its support, and they follow naturally the religion of their parents. If the Roman part of the church is firmly fixed in an erroneous course to-day,

it is largely because the Protestant part of the church, by its manifold divisions, has made it impracticable for any sincere Roman Catholic to decide what really is the Protestant view on any point of doctrine, and moreover all Roman Catholics are diligently taught to regard all Protestants as "heretics" and "schismatics." Suppose instead of denouncing Roman Catholics we Protestants were kindly to invite them seriously to consider this very simple question, "Do you really believe yourselves to be the additional articles of faith which Popes have made to the Nicene Creed are essential for your own or anybody's else's salvation?" Take for instance the first article of the creed of Plus IV, whereby we are required to believe that we may give no meaning to any passage of Scripture except in accordance with the unanimous consent of the fathers. Can the average Roman Catholic say that he knows who "the fathers" are? Can he say that he has the remotest idea of how they unanimously interpreted any passage of Scripture? If his mind is a blank on these points, what is the use of pretending to believe that this is a necessary article of faith? If it is an essential article of faith, then how many Roman Catholics are likely to be saved? At the same time even if the rule laid down by this article were a correct one, if it were faithfully and honestly carried out by the Roman theologians it would inevitably lead to the abrogation of all the Roman doctrines included in the creed of Plus IV, and the decrees of Plus IX, and the Vatican council, for no one in his senses can pretend that such articles are in the remotest degree a correct interpretation of the gospel preached by St. Paul.

The creed of Plus IV, requires all Christians to believe in and accept the decrees of the council of Trent concerning original sin and justification and all other matters concerning which that council made decrees.

May we not fairly say to our Roman Catholic brethren "What do you know about the decrees of the council of Trent?" If your mind is a blank on the subject, why make such an article a bar to union?

And in regard to the whole of these additions may we not say this: "How can you think that the additions which Popes have made to the Nicene Creed can ever have been unanimously agreed to by the fathers as a reasonable and proper interpretation of St. Paul's gospel. 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved' and yet St. Paul declared if he himself or even an angel from heaven preached any other gospel than he had preached we were not to believe him. Or, as the New Testament puts it, 'Let him be anathema.'"

It is perhaps too generally assumed that Romanists are the only Christians who have adopted the theory of infallibility; but as a matter of fact do not many Protestants regard themselves or their particular church organizations as infallible? And if we want our Roman Catholic brethren to give up their theory of infallibility we must be equally prepared to sacrifice our own.

One of the principal articles of the Roman Catholic faith to-day, which seems high to overshadow all others, is the doctrine of papal supremacy. The idea of a recognized earthly head of the whole Christian church is a good one, but what the Christian church might well aim to do is to convert the pope from an autocratic ruler into a constitutional head. The papal system as it exists to-day is the reproduction in the ecclesiastical sphere of the autocracy of the Roman empire. That empire was probably the best example of world-wide government available to the theologians of medieval times who originated and developed the papal system, but we must remember the constitutional sovereign had not then been evolved—that was the work of later years in England. Time has shown that the constitutional principle is better than the autocratic principle in the state, and it would probably prove itself equally superior if adopted by the Christian church.

—GEO. S. HOLMESTED.

BETTER THAN GOLD.

Better than grandeur, better than gold, Than rank or titles a hundredfold, Is a healthful body, a mind at ease, And simple pleasures that always please. A heart that can feel for a neighbor's woe, And share in his joy with a friendly glow, With sympathies large enough to unfold All men as brothers, is better than gold.

Better than gold is a conscience clear, Though tolling for bread in a humble sphere; Doubly blest with content and health, Untried by the lust or the care of wealth, Lowly and lofty thought Adorn and ennoble the poor man's cot; For mind and morals, on Nature's plan, Are the genuine test of a gentleman.

Better than gold is the sweet repose Of the sons of toil when their labors close; Better than gold is the poor man's sleep, And the balm that drops on his slumbers deep. Bring sleeping draughts to the downy bed, Where luxury pillows his aching head; His simpler oplate labor deems A shorter road to the land of dreams.

Better than gold is a thinking mind, That in realms of thought and books can find A treasure surpassing Australian ore, And live with the great and the good of yore, The sages lore and the poets lay, The glories of empires passed away, The world's great drama will thus unfold, And yield a pleasure better than gold.

Better than gold is a peaceful home, Where all the fireside charities come— The shrine of love and the haven of life, Hallow'd by mother, or sister, or wife, However humble that home may be, Or tried by sorrows by heaven's decree, The blessings that never were bought or sold, And centre there, are better than gold.

Better than gold in affliction's hour Is the hand that pillows the sinking head, When the pride and glory of life decay, And earth and its vanities fade away, The prostrate sufferer needs not to be told That trust in heaven is better than gold.

Actually Occurred. A British officer who toured the West during the war on propaganda work is said to be telling his colleagues in London that this incident actually happened: "On one of our trains we had no dining car and stopped at Green River in Wyoming. I think it was, for lunch in the station restaurant. My waiter seemed to be quite a typical cowboy, recruited for the emergency, and when he asked me what kind of pie I'd have for dessert, I asked what kind of pie he had. 'Mince and apple,' he replied. After some hesitancy, which seemed to arouse his ill-will, I asked for apple pie. 'Say, stranger,' he responded, with unmistakable menace, 'what's the matter with the mince pie?'"

When to Call Him. They had a row in a train, and most of us suffered from seasickness. One who did not and ranged for me three times a day rushed in from deck one afternoon and called out: "Hey, you, Bill, come out here! We're passing a ship!" To which Bill, who was not feeling just right, replied: "Ship? Don't you call me until we're passin' a tree!"

WHEN THE STOMACH IS WRONG LIFE SEEMS TO BE A BURDEN

Indigestion Comes With a Debilitated and Run-down Condition of the System and Can be Cured Through Enriching the Blood.

There are many symptoms of indigestion, such as acute pain after eating, belching of wind, nausea and vomiting, bloating and pains in the region of the heart, a dread of food for the misery it causes. Dieting and the use of pre-digested foods may give ease but can't cure—they only further weaken the stomach. The work of digestion depends upon the blood and the nerves, and the only way to cure indigestion is to tone up the stomach through the blood to do the work nature intended it should do. The very best way to cure indigestion is through a course of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which renew the blood, strengthen the nerves and enable the stomach to do its work with ease and comfort. Neglected indigestion means prolonged misery, and a more difficult cure. If you have any of the symptoms of this trouble try the tonic treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at once, and you will be gratified with the results.

APPETITE FAILED. Daniel Dexter, Liverpool, N.S., says: "For years I was a great sufferer from indigestion. I was troubled with gas on the stomach which caused disagreeable sensations. I was also frequently troubled with nausea and vomiting, which were very distressing. As a result of my trouble my appetite almost completely failed, and what I did eat caused me constant pain. I was continually doctoring, but did not get any benefit, and had about made up my mind that I would suffer for life. One day a friend asked me why I did not try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and while I had not much hope of a cure I decided to do so. I had only taken a few boxes, however, when I found they were helping me. Very gladly then I continued the use of the pills, and in less than three months I was as well as ever. I had been able to eat a hearty meal, and to feel that life was again worth living. I had also been troubled from time to time with attacks of rheumatism, and the use of the pills cured this as well as the indigestion. It is now over a year since I took the pills, and in that time I have had no return of the trouble."

If you are suffering from any form of stomach trouble, or any of the many ailments due to weak, watery blood, do not waste time and money experimenting with other remedies, but begin Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at once. These Pills have proved a cure in thousands of cases, and should do so in yours. Sold by all dealers in medicines or by mail at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

97 Piece Dinner Set and lovely Silverware Given To You. YOU can secure without a penny of cost this magnificent complete 97-piece English Dinner Service and a lovely set of half-dozen Wm. A. Rogers teaspoons. Each dinner service is guaranteed full size for family use. Its 97 pieces comprising 12 cups and 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 12 dinner plates, 12 bread and butter plates, 12 soup plates, 12 sauce dishes, 2 platters, 2 oval covered vegetable dishes, a cream jug, covered sugar bowl, a gravy boat, salt cellar, and a salad bowl. It is hand-drawn and richly decorated in rich Royal design and will surely delight the most fastidious hostess. The beautiful set of Teaspoons are in the famous Wm. A. Rogers French Carillon design with French grey handles and brightly polished bowls. We are determined to establish a national reputation for Dr. Edson's Famous Line Building Blood Tonic and Tonic Pills and are prepared to secure representatives in all parts of Canada who will help us by introducing this famous remedy to their friends and neighbors. That is why we offer to give away these magnificent premiums.

Chocolates as a Dessert. "PASS the chocolates again, please." They certainly give a finesse to the meal, which is a most decided improvement over the customary heavy puddings or fancy pastries. Good chocolates are quite the vogue now for the third course and as a tasty, profitable and beneficial dessert their use is a most sensible custom. The many occasions on which chocolates can be served with relish and appreciation make them almost a household necessity. As delicate, delicious desserts—at afternoon tea—as a relish for luncheon—mid the family circle in quiet hours—or at late suppers—chocolates may be served with excellent taste and good form. Chocolates are not a luxury. They are energy-producing food and can be eaten in your home with benefit to both old and young. Canadian-made chocolates have no superiors. Their high standards of quality and wholesomeness are obtained by purity in manufacture and the careful selection of all materials used. Serve Chocolates as a Dessert. They are a Splendid Food. THE CONFECTIONERY AND CHOCOLATE INDUSTRIES OF CANADA.

Can You Lead Men and Women? WAR-SAVINGS Societies need leaders—organizers—men and women with initiative. Who will start a War-Savings Society? Who will lead the way? War-Savings Societies Help Thousands To Save. War-Savings Societies have been, and are, a tremendous success in Great Britain. Thousands who were never able to save their money have accumulated Government certificates worth hundreds of dollars. In the United States, millions of people are members of War-Savings Societies, which are organized in factories, offices, stores, farming communities, sections of towns and villages, schools, and clubs. Everywhere throughout Canada, War-Savings Societies are in process of formation. Everyone who can save an occasional quarter should belong to a society; first, for his or her own direct benefit; second, because Canada can use the money to excellent advantage, as in the case of the War Loans. For details of the organizing of War-Savings Societies and particulars regarding War-Savings Stamps or Thrift Stamps, address: NATIONAL WAR-SAVINGS COMMITTEE, 361 Richmond Street, London, Ont., 34 Toronto Street, Toronto, Ont., Victoria Museum, Ottawa, Ont. and put O.A.M.S. at top of envelope. No postage is required. War-Savings Stamps are sold at \$4.01 this month at Money-Order Post Offices, Banks and other places displaying this sign. Thrift Stamps are sold at 25 cents each wherever War-Savings Stamps are sold and at many stores.