

Gen. Mon. Cortlandt.
Dear Sir.

Yorktown Aug. 15th 1843.

I received your note accompanying the Pamphlets of Dr. Pusey, and a bundle of Papers; for which, and the numerous others which you have sent me, you will permit me most heartily to tender my acknowledgements. In the fears which you express in reference to the spread of Popery I fully participate. The followers of the Pope are making gigantic efforts to obtain the ascendancy; and they are assisted by Catholics throughout Europe. The great, if not the only object of the Leopold Foundation in Austria, at the head of which is Prince Metternich is to sow the seeds of Popery in the United States. Our country is considered in Catholic Europe as unoccupied ground, and hence they are pouring into it, (1) their funds, (2) their priests, (3) their private church members: and these are becoming so numerous as to sway, in some sections of the country, all the elections. I am told that in the city of Pittsburgh it is never known how an election will result, until the Catholic organ, a paper entirely under the control of the Catholic priest, has taken its side: and the Catholics of the city vote to a man as their priests direct.

Another ground of fear is found in the

effort which are making to exclude the Bible from our system of education. In some school districts in the city of N.Y. it seems the Bible is a sectarian book - a Protestant affair, which must be excluded from the schools, with all other which contain any selection from its sacred pages: and all this is surrounded as a sacrifice to the tender consciences of a portion of our fellow citizens. And what gives to this part its greatest importance is, that it seems ^{not only} to excite no concern in the public mind, but to require no exertion ~~public~~ a protestation.

The Bible, I say, as you well know, was ordained by the fathers of this nation as the sacred charter of human rights - the only constant standard of morals, and the only adequate source of all moral and religious knowledge. When they received the elementary principles of their education it was almost the only class-book. From it they learned their parts, studying, and practicing lessons, and inquired them with their notes during in discourses of the rights of their country and of mankind, which have made them the admiration of the world. What a different set of men would they have been, if they had been educated under the teachings of the Bible, or in the stories of a Robtson, or a Robinson! What an entirely new to Protestantism and a to sacred doctrines Bible, may be ascertained from a comparison of our own country with Austria, Spain, Portugal, and Russia

in the days of her superstition - countries from which the Bible has been prohibited for ages by the Pope, and its reading prohibited. Who that loves his country would wish to see her beset by, ignorant, intelligent, and industrious citizens converted into the slaves of a ghastly superstition, or the victims of priestly domination, such as may be seen in most heathen countries; or into the poverty and blood-thirstiness of a Persian mob, accepted by the principles of a Jewish philosophy? And does not, by God's will, the teaching of the world teach, that where the Bible does not want is a profound influence upon the mass, and especially in teaching up the young in the virtues and admonitions, the old, which is the tenderest part of human affairs.

I repeat then the introduction of the anti-Protestant principles of excluding the Bible from our common schools as an alarming feature of the present times. Our country was organized as a Protestant nation, and not as Roman Catholic, and the principles on which it was founded and rose to eminence should remain unchanged.

Excuse I mean the death of these warring letters. It is a subject in which I feel deeply. May the God long preserve to you the blessing of health, and to us all, the great principles in which you were educated, and which were those of your fathers.

R. G. Thompson

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Gen. Pierre Van Cortlandt

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J. E. Thompson

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