

Excommunication and Curses.

A recent telegram from St. Joseph, Mo., to the Chicago dailies, gives account of the excommunication of Miss Katherine Moriarity, her mother and all her relatives, and all the Roman Catholics who participated in her wedding and reception which followed, because the young woman was married by a Protestant minister. The official announcement of such excommunication was made in formal manner by Right Rev. Bishop Burke. The letter was directed to Rev. Father Newman, pastor of the Cathedral congregation. Says the dispatch: "It was read at all the services in the Cathedral."

Miss Moriarity was married to Chas. A. Miller at the First Presbyterian church by Rev. George A. Trenholm. After the marriage a reception was held at the home of the bride's mother.

The offense, with such a terrible penalty, was not one against good morals, nor for even a change in belief, but for paying a Protestant minister a fee which should have gone into the purse of a Catholic priest. Its severity was evidently designed to intimidate others and prevent a like occurrence.

Excommunication is one of the penalties, like every rite, ceremony and practice of the mother church, including its holy days, its festivals, its masses, its grand deums, which it inherited from its Pagan ancestors. Says Chambers' Encyclopedia, article "Excommunication:"

"The ancient Romans had something analagous in the exclusion of persons from the temples and from participating in the sacrifices, which persons were also given over with awful ceremonies to the furies."

Excommunication is the present powerful instrumentality employed by the Catholic priesthood, to hold those born in the faith in restraint. Though it had been employed with great success in the humiliation of kings and monarchs on their thrones, and made great empires submissive to papal decrees, there was a time when it failed to accomplish its purpose, because of the exposures of that Augustin monk, Martin Luther, and his co-reformers. It was then the inquisition was called into requisition, while physical tortures, flames and death were substituted for curses, threats of purgatorial fires and ministrations of Devils. As civil governments gained ascendancy over the hierarchal, the torture-chamber with all of its damnable paraphernalia ceased to be publicly employed; then the ecclesiastic odium of excommunication came into vogue again. Then demons and gods, holy angels and saints were invoked to aid in making the people, and particularly churchmen, submissive to priestly dictation. To understand the full force of a papal

excommunication we copy one of those choice missives, it being the vigorous form employed by Pope Pius IX., in 1860, for the excommunication of Victor Emmanuel, then claimant to the throne of United Italy. We copy from Dr. Brown's Researches in Oriental History, p. 318-20, note:

"By authority of Almighty God, the father, son and holy ghost; and of the holy canon; and of the undefiled virgin Mary, mother and nurse of our savior; and of the celestial virtues, angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, powers, cherubims and seraphims; and of all the holy patriarchs and prophets; and all the apostles and evangelists; and of the holy innocents (who, in the sight of the holy lamb, are found worthy to sing the new song); and of the holy martyrs, and the holy confessors; and of the holy virgins; and of all the saints, together with all the holy and elect of God — we excommunicate and anathematize him, and from the threshold of the holy church of God Almighty we sequester him, that he may be tormented in eternal excruciating sufferings, together with Dathan and Abiram and those who say to the Lord God, "Depart from us, we desire none of Thy ways." And as fire is quenched with water, so let the light of him be put out forevermore.

"May the Father who created man curse him. May the Son who suffered for us curse him. May the Holy Ghost, which was given us in our baptism, curse him. May the holy Cross which Christ (for our salvation triumphing over His enemies) ascended, curse him. May the Holy and Eternal Virgin Mary, Mother of God, curse him. May St. Michael, the advocate of holy souls curse him. May all the angels and archangels, principalities and powers, and all the heavenly armies curse him. May St. John the precursor, and St. John the Baptist, and St. Peter, and St. Paul, and St. Andrew, and all others of Christ's Apostles, together, curse him. And may the rest of His disciples and four evangelists (who, by their preaching converted the universal world), and may the holy and wonderful company of martyrs and confessors (who, by their holy works, are found pleading to God Almighty), curse him.

"May the Choir of the Holy Virgins (who, for the honor of Christ, have despised the things of this world) damn him; may all the saints (who from the beginning of the world and everlasting ages are found to be beloved of God) damn him; may the heavens and the earth, and all the holy things remaining therein, damn him.

"May he be damned wherever he be; whether in the house or in the field, whether in the highway or the byway, whether in the wood or

the water, or whether in the church. May he be cursed in living and in dying, in eating and drinking, in fasting and thirsting, in slumbering and sleeping, in watching or walking, in standing or sitting, in lying down or working, mingendo, cacando, and in blood-letting.

"May he be cursed in all the faculties of his body. May he be cursed inwardly and outwardly. May he be cursed in his hair. May he be cursed in his brains. May he be cursed in the crown of his head and in his temples. In his forehead and in his ears. In his eyebrows and in his cheeks. In his jaw-bones and in his nostrils. In his foreteeth and in his grinders. In his lips and in his throat. In his shoulders and in his wrists. In his arms, his hands and his fingers.

"May he be damned in his mouth, in his breast, in his heart, and in all the viscera of his body; and may he be damned in his veins and in his groins; in the thighs and genital organs, in his hips and in his knees, in his legs, feet and toe-nails!

"May he be cursed in all the joints and articulations of his members. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot may there be no soundness in him.

"May the son of the living God, with all the glory of his majesty, curse him, and may heaven, with all the powers that move therein, rise up against him, curse him and damn him!

"Amen. So be it. Amen."

Good Protestants rejoice and take cheer that they employ no such procedure as do the Catholics, for getting rid of heretics and those they would discipline; but they should know they owe their very existence to the methods the mother church employed to gain supremacy before Protestants had a being. Since they gained partial power Protestants have never been strong enough to make the Anathema Maranatha of I Cor., xvi:22, effective; but it has substituted assaults upon the private characters of those they would crush, pursuing them with all the bitterness, malignity, and hate which characterizes a Catholic priest when a trifling fee, which he desires, drops into a Protestant's purse.—[Progressive Thinker.

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