

# PHELPS' REPLY TO FATHER CANTWELL

(By Guy Fitch Phelps)

In "Father" Cantwell's horrible eruption, which appeared in the "Heppner Gazette Times," of Jan. 13, 1927, the people of this region have been treated to a sample of the seething hatred and inquisitorial lack of fitness which lies at the core of every priest's soul. This is the accumulated culture, largeness, good-breeding, of centuries of Romanism. The local "father" has betrayed himself. In his molten fury against Protestantism he was blinded to the fact that he was revealing the skeleton hideousness of his system. I have never known a priest to write or speak in any other vein. As parts of the most inhuman, drunken, lust-clogged institution on earth what else could the priests be but samples of their machine?

"Father" Cantwell (I suppose they are denominated "father" for cause, and pass the point) does not know me personally. He has never seen me. His gall is that which created the Inquisition and washed the world in the blood of papal slaughter. Note a few of his classic utterances: "As there are certain animals, insects, vermin that feed and fatten on the corruption that fills the sewer, so there are certain human animals, human insects, human vermin, always and ever looking to the gutters for their food. Such people with darkened and perverted minds, and corrupt hearts, relish filth. Filth is food and drink, and sleep to them. . . Mr. Phelps, your oracle, your prophet, your idol, your paragon of a preacher, is about to speak. YOU VERMIN IN HUMAN FORM GO AND LISTEN TO HIM AND DRINK IN HIS ROTTENNESS." Here is a sample of what the "mother church" does for one of her sons. I am wondering what the people who have been coming to hear me speak will think of this. The priest terms all who attend my lectures "vermin," "creatures which feed and fatten on sewerage." This is in keeping with the assertion of the "fathers" that Protestants are not married, because the ceremony was not performed by a "priest," and therefore they are living in immorality. Naturally, their children for the same reason are illegitimate. If, as we have been taught, words are "signs of ideas," then we have here "father" Cantwell's ideas. How lofty, how classic, how cultured they must be, judged by his written speech. And all you people who do not grovel in the stalls of Romanism, all who have the courage to defy the Scarlet Women's despotism, are "vermin," just animals which eat at the end of a sewer. You come to your own church. You listen to a man you are paying for his work, and your speaker discusses themes which every Catholic priest in America is constantly debating and arguing, and because you do this, you are classed as "vermin," by this hyphenated papist.

"Father" Cantwell laments because our court rooms are scenes of immoral revelations and unblushing shamelessness of young girls. But just how much does a drunken priest in a town, and a filthy confessional, where such a priest muck-rakes the souls of women at his leisure and pleasure, do to provide such court scenes? And what is the moral effect on womanhood and girlhood to have a bachelor man god in the community, with the keys to the local nunnery, that prison for Catholic womanhood, in his pocket? Ah, and what shall be said of the fact that a vast majority of the bootlegging cases in the nation are Roman Catholics, brought to justice for imitating their ghostly confessors, who are notorious for their violations of the law?

"Father" Cantwell asks me to be specific regarding priestly degradation. He wants me to name place and priest and woman. Is he in earnest? Dare he press the case? Then will I begin in earnest and bring facts which will make the local infallibility hunt cover. How childish, how pitiful, this bombast. Need I join the Catholic priesthood to know a drunken priest? Need I become a "father confessor" in order to argue the nature of a given institution? May not any one study the logic of a nun? Are not things known in the very nature of cases? He speaks of the moral eclipse of Methodist preachers. There are plenty of them. But Methodist preachers fall in spite of their standards, and on their individual freewill. It is not the misconduct of a given person which constitutes a case, but the effect on individuals of an institution. And if Methodist preachers, with wives and legitimate children, and without a confessional, fall, then how foul, how degraded, how drunken, how licentious, how double-doctrined, how beastly, must be the Catholic priesthood, human nature and weakness being witness. The faces of the priests usually bear witness to their secret conduct.

The furious priest, who came roaring from his bachelor den when I referred to the confessional in its relation to the woman and himself, reminds me of a "woe unto the man who brings scandal." Exactly! But ten woes to the vulture who originates it. Is it "scandal" to expose white slavery? Is it "scandal" to tell the truth on a foul thing such as the papal confessional, where, as the local priest knows, countless Catholic women have been debauched for all worlds? Is that "scandal"? I know the priestly method is to "move the priest" and tell the victim to keep still. But covering sin is not saving the kingdom nor the church. Is it "scandal" to tell the diabolical practices of a wine-soaked and despotic and club-swinging, boycotting priest-hood? Then is "father" Cantwell's own brothers guilty of it. Protestant scholars go to Catholic writers for their records of the popes and the unspeakable corruption of the Catholic church during the Dark Ages and the sixteenth century. Platina wrote the lives of the popes, and laid open their ungodliness. DuPin, a Catholic, did the same. Bellarmine added his testimony to the rest. Beronius is a fourth witness who uncovered the carrion stinks of the papacy, yet he lived and died a cardinal. And who

were Arnold, Huss, Savaranola, Luther and most of the other Reformers but priests who exposed Roman Catholic foulness. Ah, and who were the nations of people who succeeded from the so-called "mother church" but Catholic people, exploited, degraded, mistreated, priest-ridden, till they could endure no more? Come, "father" Cantwell, were they not Catholics driven to madness by just such blasphemous doctrines and insufferable priestly lordliness as you exhibit in your article? Think you that you are getting anywhere with an intelligent reading people by calling everything that hits your drunken fraternity, "lies and slanders and sewerage?" Remember, "father" Cantwell, you are not in Mexico or South America. Protestant people think and read, and they see through your spume and dust clearly.

"Father" Cantwell uses many scripture references. This is amusing. What authority is the Bible to a Catholic Priest when it condemns him? And since he seeks to prove some of his doctrines by the Bible he will not dare charge Protestants with inconsistency if we prove ALL of ours by it. And how dare he argue that "private interpretation" is a fallacy when he submits to our "private judgment" all the references by which he hopes to convince us of the truth of his position? By this priest himself I prove that the Protestant position is correct in matters of teaching authority.

With this thought before us let me say that the "keys" of which Roman priests make so much are easy of explanation. All the apostles, not Peter alone. And whenever a man stands teaching, with the Bible in his hand, that man has the keys which bind and loose in all worlds. The man who reads, "except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish," is using the "keys" which "bind and loose." And by the plain Word of God, the Bible, any man is "bound" here and hereafter. This is no priestly prerogative; something in the gastric juices of a stomach filled with a priest-created Deity, but in the infallible Book, which "father" Cantwell quotes as infallible to prove his point. If what he quoted "binds" him, and it does, for he seeks to prove his cardinal doctrine by it, then is every man bound by it. If we are not bound by the Bible what does bind us? Does "father" Cantwell's naked word bind the souls in Heppner to heaven or hell? If his opinion were challenged to what would he go to prove his argument if not to the Bible?

This brings up the question of infallibility of which he speaks. He claims that the Roman Church is infallible in her teaching deposit and authority. Very well, will the "father" please tell us where this Catholic infallibility is located in his organization? Is "father" Cantwell infallible? No. Is the council infallible? No. Is the pope infallible? No. Then how does this local priest, who is no more infallible than I, know that he infallibly applies infallibility? May he not get things mixed to his members, especially after consuming many masses? And if he does not enjoy infallibility how do his members know that he is infallibly giving it to them? Is not, therefore, "father" Cantwell running on "private judgment" with the rest of us? And how much wiser to read from the Bible, out of hand, than to pass on the garbled and uncertain opinions of popes, who have contradicted each other in doctrine and have shamed the world with their depraved conduct.

There was not in the Apostolic church, nor among the church Fathers such a thing as a modern Catholic Confessional. Keep in mind that the Fathers of the first centuries were decidedly priestly and more or less corrupt in doctrine. Would "father" Cantwell accept all the vagaries of these same fathers? Hardly. We all believe in "confession," but not to a priest, to God, through Christ. But Mr. Cantwell tells us that a priest has the power to bind one in sin or loose them through the confessional. That his judgment alone is authority in the case. That is, the local priest has sent God on a vacation, and he tells people whether they are forgiven or not, after he hears their confession. Ligouri, one of the Catholic doctors, says that if a priest pardons a penitent God must agree to it. If he condemns that same penitent, though God would pardon him yet Deity must agree with the priest. And this infamous blasphemy, which only the most sordid degradation could believe, is set forth in this article I am answering with a brazenness which is appalling.

When a woman is in the confessional the priest has the privilege, more, it is his duty, to ask her every question he wishes. He can ask her of every sex temptation; of every sex misstep, where the act was committed, with whom, how often, all the circumstances. He can search with the serpent curiosity of hell the soul of a maiden to make her tell if she has been associated with young men; if she has exposed her body; if she has had improper desires while in the company of men. More, he even questions her, if he wishes, as to whether she has related herself to an animal. All this is openly taught in Ligouri's theology. Let "father" Cantwell deny it if he dares. I have the original Latin and the correct translation. These virtues in the "devil's box," the confessional, are commanded by their "infallible" theologians (?) to "break down modesty" in a woman while she is confessing, and to search her soul till they have sinned it over with their unthinkable degradation, even as the python covers its crushed victim with a serpent secretion before swallowing it. He can ask this woman every vulgar question he wishes regarding her husband and her private life. So vile, so unutterably carnal is this priestly gate to hell that I dare not even hint at what goes on there. Every Protestant should remember two things: The priest has the authority and the commission to ask ANYTHING of a

penitent, and the penitent must answer on the pains of perdition. I have talked to scores of women who left the confessional in disgust and renounced Romanism because of what had been asked them by a priest.

Certainly Christ only has one church, but that is a spiritual church, not bounded by any organized company of professors. If "father" Cantwell's position is right all outside the Catholic church are lost, and all inside are saved. Will he dare assert this, aside from inference? Then I will strangle him with the fact that Bishop Purcell, who debated Alexander Campbell, admitted that there are "popes in hell." I am sure that all of them are there. In their midnight stupidity the priests of Rome can only weigh spiritual values in the terms of priestly power, and sacraments in the hands of men. Their brains are so violated that they cannot conceive of a church apart from themselves. God's church consists of all who have been regenerated by His Spirit, through the Blood of Christ BY FAITH IN THAT BLOOD. Those children of the kingdom are found in and outside of all ecclesiasticalisms, and their spiritual standing is not conditioned on the word or whim of a priest, but the promises and commandments of the Bible, and the conformity of their spirits thereto, through the grace of Christ, which saves them on the terms of the sacrifice once for all made for sin. So may a man become a child of God on an island of the sea alone, without a church or a confessor. So may he live and die saved.

What was the Rock of which Christ spoke? It was not Peter. The Greek in this passage means that Peter was a small fragment of rock, while Christ speaks of himself as a mountain of rock. Christ asked as to his (Christ's) Deity. Peter replied that some thought His a prophet, etc., a unitarian definition. Then Christ asked him directly, "What do you think of my sonship?" Peter answered that he was God. Christ immediately replied "Blessed art thou Simon . . . for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee (revealed what to Peter? The Deity and Sonship of Christ), and on THIS Rock; what rock? The rock Peter? Never! On the rock of Christ's Godhood the church was to be founded, and the gates of hell were never to prevail against that doctrine. How absurd, how perverted the view that the church was to be built on a man. No such blasphemous thing was ever hinted at till the bishops of Rome aspired to power, and invented that monstrous interpretation to sustain their infamous wishes. It is clearly stated in the Bible that "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ." Christ, then is the foundation and the cornerstone of the church, not Peter.

Since infallibility rests in the popes let us glance in closing at a few of those monsters. The 29th pope became an apostate to save his life. He offered incense to idols in the temples of Vesta and Isis, and tried to get other Christians to do the same. This pope is one of the infallibles. The 26th pope denounced Arianism, went into exile because of it, and became an Arian later. The letter in which he subscribed to this false doctrine is still in existence. Would such a pope speak infallibility of faith and morals? Pope Damasus and Ursin were chosen popes at the same time. Which was the true one? The 42nd pope believed and taught the doctrine of Pelagius, which was that a man can save himself. The former pope had utterly rejected this doctrine. Two popes disagree in this case on doctrine. In the case of the 43rd pope two candidates were up for the chair of Peter. Emperor Honorius decided which was the true pope. The 45th pope bitterly opposed the Manicheans who taught communion in one kind, that is the method NOW used by "father" Cantwell, withholding the cup from the laity. There have been three popes reigning in Rome at the same time, a trinity of drunken libertines who met by night to spend among barrels what they had stolen by day. For almost eighty years there have been gaps without a pope. For almost eighty years no pope dared live in Rome. The 64th pope, Gregory, declared that the claim of universal Bishop of the church, as held now, was blasphemy. Now all popes claim it. Gregory is classed as an infallible pope though he denied the claim. The 9th pope was a murderer and a fiend, the infamous degenerate Stephen the 4th. Pope Stephen the 7th dug up the carcass of Pope Formosus, propped the reeking thing in a chair, tried and condemned it, cut off three fingers of the hand. Formosus had killed a pope. From a. d. 896 to a. d. 900, a period of four years, five popes were consecrated. Pope Leo was kicked out by a servant who became a pope. Pope Sergius lived with the infamous harlot Theodora and her two harlot daughters. Pope John the 9th also shared the loves of this woman. She made a pope in a. d. 915. One of the daughters overthrew this pope. This harlot, Morozia, made her own son pope John 11th. His father was pope Sergius. A brother of this pope

threw both the pope and his mother into prison. She made her son pope John 12th, at nine years of age. Pope John 12th was the son of the harlot Morozia by her own son Alberic (Long's Hist. Popes, p. 127.) This child in turn committed incest with his own mother and her sister. He invoked the aid of Jupiter in prayer. Here we have popes made by fallen women, yet they are called true popes today by such priests as "father" Cantwell.

Cardinal Baronius, a true priest of the church, says: "Never had divisions, civil wars . . . caused the church to suffer so much as the MONSTERS who installed themselves on the throne of Christ by simony and murders. The Roman church was transformed into a shameless courtesan covered with silks and gold; the palace of the Lateran was become a disgraceful tavern in which ecclesiasticalities of ALL nations disputed with harlots over the price of infamy. Never did priests, and especially popes, commit so many adulteries, rapes, incests, murders, robberies; and never was the ignorance of the clergy so great. . . . Thus the tempt of abomination fastened itself on the church. . . . Who would legitimate the pontiffs who anated themselves on the chair of the apostles? And what must have been the cardinalities selected by such monsters?" And this is the infallible papacy, which "father" Cantwell obeys more

than God! I have barely touched the unthinkable degradation of this monstrous line. They believed and preached every nagan doctrine. They committed every crime known. They were cruelly and lust incarnate. They washed the world in innocent blood, even as they have in Mexico. They have filled the world with superstition and rags, even as Mexico and South America. They covered France with skulls because the people wished to be free of these creatures which Cardinal Baronius calls monsters. They set up the inquisition and slaughtered millions by it. It is this sodden, anonsrous, blood-drunk thing, the blight of the ages and the scourge of men, which the local priest defends. I did not begin this fight. He was here when I came, the apologist for this pope-dominated, unAmerican organization. I have but answered him. This is the Scarlet Woman, or Revelation, intoxicated with gore, who has committed fornication (church and state) with the kings of the earth. The local priest "who says his name is Cantwell," assures us that this harlot Woman is old. Ah, so is blasphemy, the pagan religions, and murder. The Greek church is older than the Roman, if that means anything. His church does not own Canada, America, Mexico, Serbia, England's Empire, France and other lands. He rails at the story of Maria Monk. Cantwell KNOWS that she told the truth. He knows it by his own experience. He

KNOWS it. Let Protestants send and get that famous book. Send fifty cents to Wm. Lloyd Clark, Editor Rail-Splitter, Milan, Ill., and read it, and pass it on. It is the priesthood laid bare. Get also, "Why Priests Should Wed," and "Father Chinesey's Confessional," from the same source.

I beg all Catholics to assert their human rights and be free from this priestly despotism and degradation. Never let one of your girls or wives go again to Confession, where the priest picks their souls. And now, Mr. Cantwell, your church teaches that if a priest does not have correctly and truly perform a priestly act when he baptizes, consecrates the Host, ordains, etc., it is null and void. This being true, how do you

know, Mr. Cantwell, that you were ever really baptized, took the mass, or were ordained, since you cannot know the mind of the priest when he gave you these sacraments? Will you answer these things? Yes, one thousand years from today.

I hereby challenge you to publicly debate the following question: Resolved, that the Catholic Church is not the True Church of God.

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