

nobility of character. When the angel of the Lord was about to smite the city of Jerusalem with the pestilence, David cried out unto the Lord and said, "Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house." There was an exhibition of one of the grandest traits in the human character.

In connection with this, the prayer that David made, and to which I have made reference, shows his heart and the confidence which he had in God. I would that we could all feel to make such a prayer. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

What a grand and beautiful prayer! Can we feel to make a prayer of that kind? I fear not. I am afraid some of us would hardly be willing to ask God to search our hearts to see if there was anything wrong in us. Yet we should be willing to make this prayer; and every one of you who is faithful and worthy of celestial glory will see the day when you can make this prayer.

God bless you, brethren and sisters, and let us remember the things that have been talked about during this conference. Let us try to be a little better in the future than we have been in the past, and not let the gold and silver make us unwise and foolish. Amen.

PAPACY.

Luther, having been once requested to examine a theological candidate in order to ascertain whether he was qualified for the duties of a preacher of the gospel, abruptly asked the question: "What do you know about the devil?" The question may seem absurd, but there is more wisdom in it than appears on the surface, for he who does not know thoroughly the evil in its origin and consequences can certainly not apply the best remedies against it. Perhaps this general principle is applicable in another instance? "What do you know about the devil?" was Luther's question. "What do you know about papacy?" is ours.

Very few of our young people in Utah have any idea of the strength of that great church known as the Catholic, whose motto seems to be: *Extra ecclesiam nulla salus* (outside of the church no salvation). They do not realize how the most stupendous lie ever forged comes wonderfully near the truth; that the counterfeit is so skillfully wrought as to deceive, if it were possible, even the elect. But a knowledge of this is essential to the right understanding of the word of God, much of which in prophetic language refers exclusively to papacy. The following lines are therefore devoted to this subject.

In the year 1854 the Roman Catholic Church added a new dogma to her already rich supply, that of the

"immaculate conception" of the Virgin Mary. The worship of Mary required a justification, and this led the always inventive church to the doctrine that she was born without sin. The string of arguments through which this doctrine was arrived at was plausible enough. Christ was the Son of God, the same essence as the Father (*hom-ousios to patri*), and without sin. His mother must therefore have been without sin, too; for how can a sinless God be born of sinful flesh? But plausible as the argument apparently is, it did not bring conviction to a doubting world. The new dogma, and the church which invented it, were ridiculed from all sides.

Then, who should have thought it? From heaven came the assistance needed. The Roman church was vindicated by no less a one than the Virgin herself. The great church fights not with mere theories but with revelations and miracles.

It happened in this way: On the 11th February, 1858, three little girls went out from the small town of Lourdes in order to gather wood for fuel. Two of them were sisters. As they had to wade over a creek, Bernadette, a somewhat weak child of fourteen, was left a short distance behind, when she suddenly perceived a mild wind, and as she lifted her head she saw, to her great wonder, a glorious vision. A cave in the rock near by was filled with light the brilliancy of which made the walls of the cave shine, and in the middle of the light appeared the beautiful form of a woman, a virgin, at once indescribable, lovely and majestic. Her garments were like a sun, her feet were bare and ornamented with roses. Her hands were folded over her bosom, and she had a long, snow-white rosary, the beads of which were connected with a chain of gold. A gold cross formed the ornament of the rosary. The vision smiled to the child as only angels can smile.

From this time a secret power led Bernadette to the cave; and no fewer than eighteen times appeared the beautiful lady and spoke to her. Sometimes these visions were had in the presence of 10,000 persons or more; for the report soon went out and attracted people from near and far. And no wonder. On one occasion the apparition told Bernadette that she wished to see many people come to this cave; on another, that a chapel should be built over it; people must repent and that sinners must be prayed for. And in order to leave a lasting monument of the visit to the earth, the heavenly visitant caused a spring to flow from out of the cave, the healing powers of which we shall presently learn to know. Nor was there a lacking in direct miracles. On one occasion as Bernadette was talking to the apparition, she lifted her hand and inadvertently held it in the flame of a burning candle. But she was not hurt thereby. For a quarter of an hour the flame touched the hand and Bernadette did not know it. This happened in the presence of thousands of persons, all of whom acknowledged

the miracle, praising God and Mary therefor. Also, the name of the heavenly inhabitant should be known to the world. Being instructed by a priest to importune the lady to tell her name, Bernadette did so. "O, dear lady," said she, "kindly tell me who thou art, and what is thy name?" Twice this prayer was repeated and unanswered. On the third occasion the lady folded her hands, her face shone, a picture of glorified humility. Finally she lifted both hands, let them drop down toward the earth, and again lifted them, saying with eyes thankfully directed toward heaven, "I am the immaculate conception." Having said this she vanished. This took place in the presence of a numerous crowd all of whom felt the presence of the Virgin, although they did not see her.

Now, the Catholic Church had a proof for their new dogma. For had not Mary herself come direct from heaven to France in order to tell the world that she was "immaculate;" and who can now doubt? The visions were there, witnessed by thousands, the well which so miraculously sprung from the cave was there. What more could this sceptical world want?

This water, although nothing but common drinking water—as has been proved by chemical analysis—has the most wonderful healing power of any in the world. Hundreds have been miraculously cured thereby, and thousands upon thousands have derived benefit from it. A few instances are here given from Catholic sources:

Louis Bouriette, in Lourdes, had been blind in one eye for twenty years. No doctor could heal him, a very common circumstance. As soon as he heard of the spring water he sent for some, and behold! on its first application he was healed. Dr. Dozous testified to the truth of this miracle.

Jean Bouhohorts, a poor child of Lourdes, was dying. His limbs became cold and stiff, the light of the eyes had gone out. "He is dead," said the father, but the mother, with the power of despair, took the child and carried it to the cave. Here she immersed the body in the ice cold water, and there held it for a quarter of an hour. Then she went home and laid it in the cradle. Next day the child was well enough to go out to play. Hundreds saw this miracle.

Maria Lanou-Domenge, a widow 80 years of age, suffered from lameness of the left side. She could not take a step without assistance. She sent for the wonderful water from Lourdes, and after having drunk a glass of it she was perfectly healed. Her doctor saw it and was astonished.

A lawyer in Paris, Heinrich Las-senc, became blind in both eyes. His friend, Minister President Charles de Freycinet, advised him to try the water from Lourdes. He did so, and to his great surprise as soon as he had applied it his sight was restored. We owe this lawyer a most able treatise on the miracles of Lourdes.