
The Irreverend Boyd-Barrett.

There are few Catholic students who are unfamiliar with his name. Most of you know that he is a priest, and was a member of the Jesuits. Those of you who may have read some of his works know, too, that he is intelligent and interesting.

You may, however, overlook the fact that, as an authority, something more than intelligence is required.

Like Will Durant, Father Boyd-Barrett is a man of half-truths. Moreover, he has an ax to grind.

He is a disgruntled and disappointed man; "disillusioned," he says. Because the members of his order have refused to recognize his "talents," he is angry. (If you want to know anything about his temper, ask those who lived with him patiently for twenty years.)

That grudge he carries over against the Church which recognizes his Order as a glorious Christian institution.

Like many an apostate before him, Father Boyd-Barrett ridicules the Church, the Jesuits, priests and nuns, by pointing out their weaknesses, their sins, their foibles.

Luther did the same thing. Luther was a priest and a religious, too, and, God knows, should have had lots of first-hand information.

The sad part of it was, and is, that Luther and Boyd-Barrett fail to see in themselves the same defects, or even more glaring ones.

In most of his writings Boyd-Barrett seeks to arouse a spirit of animosity, an anti-clerical atmosphere. But we know that if Father Boyd-Barrett is in his right mind (a fact which we have reason, at times, to doubt), he does not want to be too closely investigated himself. We say, with conviction, that he would not come off with flying colors.

In a recent article, discussing the sociology of nunneries, he treats the Sisterhoods of the Church in a scornful manner. That's putting it lightly. A curious thing, however, happens in the article. He continually contradicts himself.

He speaks of the degradation of womanhood when Sisters perform the menial tasks of preparing meals and making beds; and in the same breath, describes as "snooty" the sisters who will not so degrade themselves.

He accuses them of being money-grabbers, and at the same time says that they do not make enough to run their establishments efficiently.

He quotes Cardinal O'Connell as praising nuns for the saintliness of their lives, and yet as rebuking them for their meanness and uncontrolled manias.

We are not surprised that Father Boyd-Barrett writes in such a vein. We expect it after what has happened to him. What does surprise us is that he seems to think that reasonable people are going to be convinced by such illogical argumentation.

The day may come when this unfortunate priest will find no one to kneel at his bedside, and pray God for his soul, except a Sister of Charity. On that day, at least, may he be penitent enough to disavow his gross unfairness!