

Buffalo, July 6th 1866

Very Rev. and Dear Sir,

M^r. Brownson is not complimentary when he says: "The difficulty with my readers arises from their never having fully learned their theology in english," etc. Besides what little I learned in Latin, I learned Theology also in French, German, and English.

Do these words of the learned Doctor sound sweet to Catholic ears? "Christ was her redeemer as well as ours." If he means that Christ was her Redeemer by extending his hand of almighty power so that never, never did the poison of sin touch her sacred person, he is right; but the common laws of language hardly permit this explanation, for he continues: "She could no more enter the kingdom of heaven without regeneration, than the meanest of Adam's posterity." If as soon as she was Mary, she was generated in holiness, innocence and sanctity, is it permitted to say that she needed regeneration as much as the meanest of Adam's posterity? "The redeeming and elevating grace was as necessary in her case, as in ours." If in the instant of her conception, or of the infusion of the holy human soul into the body, (the instant when she became Mary, a human being,) if in that instant she was most dear to God, how can we assert

But that we may not mistake the Doctor's meaning, he says:
what is said above: "The redeeming and elevating
grace was as necessary in her case as in ours, but
in her case, was applied in the first instant of her conception."
If there is truth in human language, this implies that at
first, for the smallest imaginable part of a thought, or of an
instant, she was in sin, and needed redemption and regeneration.
I need not tell the learned Doctor, that such an assertion
conflicts with faith.

But I have no wish to push the question, still less do I wish
to be known as a censor of a worthy man whom I much
esteem. I am sure that he would ever say with St. Augustine:
"Errare potero; hereticus non ero."

If my poor sermon has been published, I would be
thankful if you would send me a copy, as I had no
time to make one.

With great respect and esteem,

Very Rev. and Dear Sir,

Your most humble obt. servant

+ John Bp. of Buffalo



Very Rev. E. Sorin C.S.S.C.