



EXCERPT: Is the Pope to Rule America?

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By: Augustus E. Barnett - April 15, 1913.

Chapter 1: Protestants And The Papacy.

The time has come for Protestants to reaffirm their convictions and to restate their reasons for rejecting the traditions, superstitions and claims of Rome. That church tenderly consigns us to eternal torments because we do not accept her impossible, unscriptural, irrational dogmas.

Recent events in America make it necessary for every Protestant to awake to give a reason for the hope that is within him, and to bravely stand against the encroachments upon our civil and religious liberties that endanger the very life of our beloved Republic.

In the books of her dogmatists, in the barking pages of her press, and in the statements of her intolerant prelates there is ill-disguised contempt for the Protestant churches, fierce indictments of their sincerity, bitter attacks upon their founders and an air of contemptuous authority, to which we have grown so accustomed that we have almost forgotten in our supine indifference that not to protest may be regarded as an evidence of weakness and a complacent disregard of insinuation and abuse.

Never was the challenge to Protestants louder than to-day. The Reformation was a blow for liberty from ecclesiastical thralldom which has to be struck again. If Protestants are passive or

asleep, not so those who call them heretics and constantly expose them to their javelin thrusts of opposition and scorn.

The Roman Catholic Church has produced great saints, sublime poets, intrepid missionaries, illustrious heroes, and in her great bosom are, unquestionably, thousands to-day who are seeking God with all their heart, and whose eyes have not yet been opened to behold its intolerance, bigotry, superstition, utter and awful variance at many points with the lucid teaching of Him whom they worship.