

Orange Men And Women Under Fire.

I was up in Dunfermline on Saturday morning when a string of buses containing Orange men and women went by, most of them singing the sort of songs that are a deliberate taunt to Roman Catholics, "just asking for a fight". I remember in particular one woman whose voice was even courser and louder than her make-up leading her bus load from the platform in singing a song about being "up to the knees in Fenian blood".....etc" I met a fellow minister and we agreed that we were glad we were not wearing our dog-collars, it made us feel so ashamed.

I am not concerned to defend the Roman Church from such insults, for she has nothing to fear from these fulminations, in fact the reverse. If I had been a Roman priest I would not have turned a hair. It is my own Church that I am concerned to defend, for such a demonstration made by those who claim to be "Protestant" whether directed against Roman Catholics or against Jews, against Communists or against Fascists, against Germans or against Jamaicans can only do harm to us. Are Protestants not a variety of Christians? Are Christians not followers of Him who told us to love, not only our neighbours, but our enemies? If people must make such bloodthirsty demonstrations, should they not dissociate themselves from Protestantism? For being an anti-Roman Catholic is very different from being a Protestant.

I am aware that some of the local Orange-men whom I know are very much against this sort of demonstration, and I think they might agree with what I have written—I hope so anyway. When they come to the church in which I minister for a service, they assure me that there would be nothing of this, and as far as I could see there was none. I would like to think that they would dissociate themselves from this exhibition of Saturday morning, but that is up to them. But certainly through your column, I would take leave to dissociate myself, and my Church from such infantile and un-Christian behaviour.

J. L. Cowie (Rev.)

The Church of Scotland
Queensferry Road
Rosyth.
12th July 1962.

Orange Men And Women Under Fire

I was up in Dunsferrieh on Saturday morning while a string of buses containing Orange men and women were by some of them singing the sort of songs that are a deliberate insult to Roman Catholics and "asking for a fight". I remember in particular one woman whose voice was even louder and louder than her make-up, leading her bus band from the platform in singing a song about being "up to the knees in Feosa blood" etc. I met a fellow minister and we agreed that we were glad we were not wearing our dog-collars it made us feel so ashamed.

I am not concerned to defend the Roman Church from such insults for she has nothing to fear from these intimidations, in fact the reverse. If I had been a Roman priest, I would not have minded a bit. It is our own Church that I am concerned to defend for such a demonstration made by those who claim to be "Protestant" whether directed against Roman Catholics or against Jews against Communists or against Fascists against Germans or against Japanese, can only do harm to us. Are Protestants not a variety of Christians? Are Christians not, followers of Him who told us to love not only our neighbours but even our enemies? If people must make such threatening demonstrations, should they not dissociate themselves from Protestantism? For being an anti-Roman Catholic is very different from being a Protestant.

I am aware that some of the local Orange-men whom I know are very much against this sort of demonstration, and I think they might agree with what I have written—I hope so, anyway. When they came to the church in which I minister for a service they assured me that there would be nothing of this, and as far as I could see there was none. I would like to think that they, too, would dissociate themselves from this exhibition of Saturday morning, but that is up to them. But certainly, through your columns, I would take leave to dissociate myself and my Church from such infantile and un-Christian behaviour.

J. L. COWIE (REV.)

The Church of Scotland,
Queensferry Road,
ROSEH.

15th July 1962