

Patrick Ford, "Henry George's Mistake" - excerpt quoted by Ross B. Emmett and Kenneth Wenzler in "Henry George, the Transatlantic Irish, and Their Times" -- perhaps taken from The Standard??

"The open and violent opposition of Mr. George to the Catholic Church necessitates action on my part. Henry George is a Protestant, was born and brought up a Protestant, and it is but natural, of course, that he should see the Catholic Church with the eyes of a Protestant. I use the word Protestant here in the broadest sense. An expression by him of his religious views, if called upon, in public or private could not offend an sensible man.

His offense is that he has singled out the Catholic Church as an institution and has declared war against her as an enemy of society. He has misrepresented her motives, derided her authority, and sought to bring her entire hierarchy, with the pope himself, into hatred and contempt. And with the virus of this hatred he has endeavored to inoculate the new political party of which he is the recognized head.

According to Henry George the Catholic Church is an utterly corrupt organization, the foe of liberty and human rights the world over. It is made up of tyrants and slaves, and in it only hypocrites can be in good standing. If all this or one-half of it were true, then no honest man could remain in the Catholic Church, and indeed only such Catholics as openly challenge and defy excommunication are, in his opinion, honest men and worthy of admiration.

To say, as Henry George does say, that because he does not assail her doctrines and sacraments he does not therefore assail the Catholic Church, but only the "machine," is to trifle with common sense. It is a distinction without a difference. The machine is the complex system by which the organization of the church visibly exists and is carried on --- the necessary instrument by which her power is applied and made effective. Destroy this machine and you reduce the church to a mere abstraction.