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A Dialogue Between a Catholic and a Protestant

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A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT.

You Sons and Daughters of each persuasion,
Give ear with patience to what I say;
It being a Dialogue that has took place,
Between two well known clergymen the other day.
This left a branch it belonged to Luther,
He asked the other how his creed was wrong,
He says I'm scoffed at by its vile intruders,
So between them both the argument went on.

*So now dear friend I could wish you to tell me
How there is salvation there to be found,
In no other church but the Roman Temple,
Was I to search the wide world round,
Did not our Lord say to his disciples,
My peace to all of you I'll leave,
Go preach the gospel and teach all Nation's,
That men of all sects they may be saved.*

Kind sir, to answer that simple question,
For your conversion I will make bold,
Our blessed Lord, his disciples order'd,
To bring all stray sheep to his fold.
The cares of his Church, he also gave to Peter
To reign triumphant as the scripture tells,
And said at all times he would be with her,
To defend and guard her from the powers of hel.

So my dear friend the scripture tells us,
That grave Anagogus, shall'n't be adored,
Which you in worship does daily practice,
If you contradict me, I'll say no more.
Besides each Sunday at divine service—
It's from the parson those words were told—
That our religion it was the same,
As the Apostles told us in the days of old.

*Kind sir to say that we worship Images,
It is a falsehood believe me true;
We only have them within our chapels,
To remind us what we for the Lord should do.
That we may also take pattern by them,
For they were pure, without spot, or stain!
The imps of Satan, we do defy them,
For by the maxin we shall salvation gain.
Kind sir more-over we did discover,
That your parson's daily, does so explore,
That your religion it was the same,
As the Apostles taught in the days of yore*

*But where was your church before Martin Luther,
Or the Reformation had first began;
It was bess, and neddy, with old Harry Tudor,
For lust invented that wicked plan.*

Now friend their is still another objection,
I have to make to the roman Creed;
That is the doctrine you call it Confession,
By which the Catholic from sin is freed,
I dont believe that the Almighty
Ever gave the power unto any man,
If forgiven sins by confessing truly,
As faith alone it is our only plan.

*Kind sir, that question it is easy answered.
If you will peruse the 6th, chapter of James;
Where our blessed Lord his disciples order'd,
To confess their sins the proof is verry plain.
When the keys to Peter and his priest was given:
To lock and unlock the gates of Heaven.
Those sins you shall release, they are set free,
And those sins you do retain retain'd shall be.*

*So my dear friend how can you say its a libel,
Saying we have not got no rule of faith,
Wherein you know that we have got the bible,
By which we are guided both early and late.
Will it not lead a man unto salvation,
As it's surely God's written word
For to confute me in this dictation,
I'm sure you cannot be so absurd.*

Kind sir, how can you say you have a bible,
To be your regular rule of faith;
Wherein you know well it is so corrupted,
From the reformation to the present date.
First by king Harry it was invented,
And by Martin Luther, and old Cranmer too,
So by this you are well confuted,
As a correct copy you have none it's true.

Now friend, I find that all your objections,
Unto my questions are very true,
Besides your holy Faith, it is a perfect one—
So whilst I live I'll it persue.
I see it plainly and very clearly,
There is but one Lord, one Faith, and one true Church alone,
So with heart-full joy to embrace it dearly,
I will live and die in the Church of Rome.