



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Some little time ago, a sister in Christ in the United States sent me a link to a recording on SermonAudio of a report I gave in Martyrs Memorial Free Presbyterian Church of my experiences during a protest in St Paul's Cathedral, London, when Cardinal Heenan, head of the Roman Catholic church in England, became the first Roman Catholic prelate to preach in the cathedral.

It stirred memories as I listened to that recording, taking me back, as it did, some 45 years.

Dr Paisley was leading the protest and also the meeting in the Martyrs where various ministers gave a report of the protest. Sadly, only my report appears on the SermonAudio site.

As a result of the protest, I was taken to court under a very old ecclesiastical law, and fined. At least that is what I think happened to me. It is so long ago and court appearances for Free Presbyterians were so common back then, that I have no clear recollection of the outcome of the court proceedings. One thing I am sure of, the magistrate did not give me a medal!!

Ivan Foster.

10th September, 2014.



Listen to the recorded report of the protest **here**.

Ramsey's Courtship Interrupted

(From *The Revivalist* of February 1969)



Archbishop Ramsey and Cardinal Heenan

The scene was set. St. Paul's was just right for the arrival of the anti-Christ. A large stone crucifix, the flickering flame of four great wax-dripping candles and the breathless expectancy of the congregation spoke volumes of the lavish preparations for HIS arrival.

Suddenly the congregation bowed to the ground. Arrayed in gorgeous robes, the Archbishop of Canterbury arrived and began his stately procession into the cathedral. Supremely benign, he blessed them and made the sign of the cross over them.

A gift for His Grace

For a brief moment the portly archbishop's benignity and ecumencial love deserted him as a lady interrupted him by stepping to the aisle and offering him a book with the words "Would you accept this, Your Grace?" "Certainly", was the reply. He took the book in his hands but glancing at the cover he saw the title "Catholic Terror Today". Angrily he threw it from him. The lady who gave it to him (reputedly a Roman Catholic) retrieved it.

. . . And a Shock!

Of course we must not be too harsh on Cardinal Ramsey. He may be portly and overfed, but he is still a very courageous man, and had to show it. Previously he had been withered by a mighty voice (that of the Rev. Ivan Foster) crying in the wilderness of St. Paul's against his base betrayal of British Protestantism. Dear Ramsey nearly fainted! He and even his "bouncers" were stupefied and had to listen as Mr. Foster powerfully called upon the people to awake to their danger. At last this voice of the Reformation was removed. Now,



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

some people might have been tempted to think that Cardinal Ramsey was something less than the man of courage we all know him to be, and so when the lady gave him the book on 'Catholic Terror' he could do no other than withstand her by casting it from him. Of course, it was entirely fortuitous that he was flabbergasted by the appearance of a MAN but could stand up to a WOMAN. Or was it? Perhaps his continual habit of dressing like one of the "Mothers in Israel" (no disrespect to those good ladies intended) has made an old woman out of him.

The Archbishop was in position. The atmosphere became even more tense. A buzz went through the congregation - HE was arriving! The papal Anti-Christ, personified in the Pope's number one man in Britain, Cardinal Heenan, had arrived.

Again the people bowed as if in the presence of a god - again they were "blessed" with the sign of the cross.

The Love Affair

Ramsey welcomed his "Dear brother in Christ" to St. Paul's. They embraced and kissed. The congregation were witnessing a public demonstration of ecumenical courtship. Sadly for the lovers, it was quickly interrupted by disgusted Protestants. Heenan began to speak. Or tried to begin! Some Protestants were determined to protest.

Rev. James McClelland, prayed loudly that God would save England from the scourge of Popery. He was roughly removed, still praying. Rev. Stanley Barnes told Heenan "You are a traitor to our God. Popery is from Hell". Six of Heenan's "bully-boys" set upon him. They viciously attacked him and just about choked him. Rev. James Beggs, stood up and read from 2 Cor. 6. He was also removed. Mr. Michael Patrick approached Ramsey and told him what true Protestants thought of him and his treachery. He was almost choked, had his shoes removed and thrown at him. All this inside the Cathedral building. What Love! - One of the stewards roughly removing Mr. W. Abernethy told him, "I will break your neck when I get you out of here. " What language! When Rev. Fred Lockhart told Heenan he was a liar, on account of a sly dig at Ulster Protestants, he was treated in a vicious manner. Likewise with the Rev. Wm. McCrea. Many hours later Mr. Lockhart was still in considerable pain as a result of being throttled by those removing him from the Cathedral. Free Presbyterian students, Mr. John Long and Mr. Alton Wagner, were among the other people who made an effectual protest. Every time a Protester was ejected the congregation, largely papist, cheered.

For half an hour Heenan was severely hampered - in fact for quite a while he could not get started properly at all.

Heenan Butters, Then Batters

When at last he did speak his words dropped like honey. He was too sweet to be wholesome. Psalm 55:21 perfectly described the situation "the words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: His words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords." Heenan said something that should make every Protestant in Ulster whose church is in the W.C.C. awaken. Speaking of the ecumenical movement he said, "Christian unity has already largely been achieved." Later on he made it clear that the ultimate goal of the ecumenical movement was the union of the churches, including Rome. There is no place for any Child of God in such an unholy, unscriptural set up. "Come out of her my people" is God's command, "touch not the unclean thing."

OUTSIDE THE CATHEDRAL

It was as rough outside as inside the Cathedral. While Heenan spoke in honeyed tones, his followers showed their true colours. They made a vicious attack upon Dr. Paisley and the protesters with him. They threw eggs, tomatoes and bricks. Dr. Paisley and Rev. John Wylie together with many around them were repeatedly hit by missiles. A Romanist spat right in Rev. Alan Cairns' face. Rev. Brian Green was set upon by a mob of Papists and was only rescued when the police intervened. Some placard carriers were attacked by a drunken, swearing English Papist.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The ringleaders of the vicious mob were Irish Papists. None of these Papists were arrested. They cried, "One man, one vote" and "This is a free country". Their attacks proclaim that the only freedom popery recognises



The demonstrators outside the cathedral with their banners

is freedom for herself and repression of Protestantism. There were cries of, "Paisley, Fascist". Rome has for too long been allowed to forget that Fascism was fostered in the Vatican as was its twin, Nazism. Mussolini and Hitler were ardent Papists and were in league with the Pope. These are simply the facts of history.

WORTHWHILE

Some, presumably well-meaning, Protestants ask, "Is such a protest worthwhile? After all, are these things not

prophesied?" Yes, such a protest is very worthwhile. It demonstrated in no uncertain way the true nature of Romanists. Even the Daily Express, a faithful ally of the Pope, had to note the difference between the Protestants and the Papists outside St. Paul's. "For 30 minutes the protest resolved itself into a battle of hymns and a barrage of rotten fruit, tomatoes and eggs hurled at Mr. Paisley."

If the essential difference in the behaviour of Protestants and Papists is brought home to the British people, our protest is worthwhile. And more important, we believe a voice needs to be raised to the glory of the God of Truth against the iniquitous sell-out to the Harlot church of Rome.



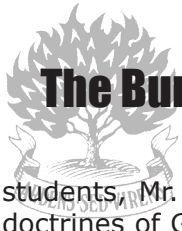
Police had to form a tight cordon around Dr. Paisley, and other members of the protest to keep back the vicious, angry mob. Missiles were continually hurled into the circle. Such is the treatment that Rome gives to faithful Protestants.

"But the apostasy is prophesied." So it is. Does that mean we do not have to withstand it? Assuredly not. The Flood was prophesied, yet Noah preached in protest against sin. The rest was left with God. The salvation of all the Elect is prophesied. Nothing is more sure. Does that mean we need not cry as Paul did, "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent"? Definitely not. We need to preach - and leave the rest to God.

So in the matter of Apostasy. It is prophesied, but we do not know precisely how many people it will finally swallow up in the churches of Great Britain, nor how soon. Thus we must stand and cry aloud and spare not, and leave the rest to God.

SCRIPTURAL

This is what we did at St. Paul's. We did nothing and said nothing that in any way violates the letter or the spirit of the teachings of the Word of God. And God will bless that stand. Indeed He already has. One of our



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

students. Mr. Ian McVeigh, contacted a Roman Catholic coming out of the Cathedral. They discussed the doctrines of Grace and have arranged to continue the discussion by correspondence. Pray that this Roman Catholic man may be delivered from the bondage of Popery and brought to know Christ as his personal Saviour.

As we go to press, Rev. Ivan Foster has been remanded on bail to appear in Court on February 24th, because of his protest. He is charged, under an 1860 ecclesiastical act, of riotous and indecent behaviour. Remember our brother as he appears before London magistrates because of his stand for the faith once delivered to the saints.