

Time-honored burial, on the contrary, where rightly and efficiently practiced, has for centuries been the accepted and most humane and rational method of interring the bodies of the dead, sparing the emotions of the living, and, at the same time, accomplished without detriment to health or sanitation. To these advantages might be added a juridical one that, in the course of ages, has spared the life of a great many innocent defendants and brought to justice many a silent criminal. Burial affords what cremation forever destroys: the possibility of exhuming the body for legal examination. Nor is this fact of minor importance, for frequently the legal solution of a maze of conflicting evidence rests solely on a post mortem examination.

Since cremation involves no contradiction to dogma, it is permissible and even necessary at times, and under certain conditions such as arise in times of war, plague, or pestilence, when the immediate good of the living demands it. Broad minded and far seeing in her attitude, the Catholic Church has ever at heart the best interests of humanity, upholding its rights and protecting and guiding its course along Christian and humane lines justly in keeping with its dignity. Having laid the foundations of Christian civilization, she has, for nearly twenty centuries, been the champion of all that can be an honor and a glory to it. Religious, scientific, and political foes have striven from the very beginning to wrench from her experienced hand the norm of civilization, but to no avail. Her traditional attitude towards cremation is but a single example of her all embracing efforts in the interests of humanity. Vain, indeed, is the folly that flings itself against the Rock of Peter!

STAR-PLAY

By BRO. GREGORY HEROLD, O. P

The little angel babes,
With dainty marbles bright,
Played long among the fields
Of heaven's purple night;
But when the grey-eyed Dawn
Peeked in upon the sight,
They quickly took alarm
And scampered off in flight!