

Written by a fair-minded Protestant, this article should be read by
Protestants and Catholics alike . . .

Protestant and Catholic

IN AMERICA TODAY two mighty forces exist side by side: Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. The two have much in common. Both groups are working to make religion an integral part of our national life. Both seek to establish the spiritual values of the Christian faith, as the only means of successfully combating the increasing materialism of our age. Yet there are great differences between Catholicism and Protestantism, and some of these differences are inevitable and irreconcilable.

Each group stands for something the other does not believe in. Since this is a fact, is there any possibility that Roman Catholics and Protestants can come together in any way and, in a measure at least, unite their forces in defense of the Christian faith? At the present moment it seems almost impossible. As the *American Mercury* said: "The widening gulf between protestants and Roman Catholics has become an important national issue."

Now it happens that time ago I wrote to Archbishop Cushing of Boston, voicing my approval of the high moral and spiritual quality of his addresses. In my letter I suggested the possibility of some form of cooperation between Roman Catholics and Protestants against the common foe of modern materialism. In reply I received what to me was a most astounding letter, and one which most certainly is worth quoting in full. I have Archbishop Cushing's permission to do this.

Dear Mr. Kimball: The blessings of the Lord to you for your grand note. As you know full well, the way is hard, and a kind word like yours is a source of great encouragement. I am convinced that Christians of all classes, Protestants and Catholics, must unite if we are to save the world from moral and spiritual decay, which is always the prelude to material destruction.