

Conversion and Defection

fession—can hardly take a reasonably modest view of the scantiest religious experience; while the Church, entered and subsequently disowned, is bound to be at fault. Gibbon regarded the vagaries of his precocious boyhood with high seriousness; with no seriousness at all the Faith so quickly won, so swiftly lost. In truth it seems that the vast complacency of the self-satisfied not only shrivels the generous impulses of the heart and hides from sight the vision of the City of God, it also consumes humour till nothing is left but a smirk.

JOSEPH CLAYTON.

DEI CULPA

The angered soul self-shuttered from the light
Upbraideth God, who will not end its night.

VINCENT McNABB, O.P.