

**MUSTARD SEED:  
SOME PUNGENT  
PARAGRAPHS**

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Mustard seed: some pungent paragraphs by Francis P. Donnelly

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**FRANCIS P. DONNELLY**

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**SOME PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS**

BY  
**FRANCIS P. DONNELLY, S.J.**  
AUTHOR OF WATCHING AN HOUR, HEART OF THE GOSPEL,  
HEART OF REVELATION, ETC.



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## TWO PARABLES AND A REQUEST

HERE is the first parable! "To what shall we liken the Kingdom of God? Or to what parable shall we compare it? It is as a grain of mustard-seed, which when it is sown in the earth is less than all the seeds that are in the earth. And when it is sown, it groweth up and becometh greater than all herbs and shooteth out great branches, so that the birds of the air may dwell under the shadow thereof." Mustard-seed suggests pungency to us, but for the Jews to whom our Lord spoke this parable, the mustard-seed was proverbial of something minute. Perhaps the reader may admit that these reprinted papers deserve such a collective title because of modern as well as ancient suggestions, but may deem them immoderately ambitious if they claim further resemblance to the gospel mustard-seed and aspire to that importance which

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will offer to the flight of thoughts some rest and helpful shade.

And here is another parable! When the writer was at college, he heard during a retreat the following story. Once upon a time a man was carrying upon his shoulder a sharp scythe and was much bothered by a cur barking at his heels. In anger the man brought down the scythe to strike his tormentor, but cut off his own head in the operation. What the original moral of this story was, has long been forgotten, but a very apt lesson occurs to the writer now as he sends out these papers. He is shamefully conscious that the edge he has been whetting week after week in the columns of *America*, finds much work to do at home before it goes afield against its intended crop of foibles and follies.

Now for the request! Will the reader kindly remember that many of these papers are intentional caricatures and as such give certain features undue prominence. No weakness is found in life without some palliations to temper its unattractiveness. It is the dangerous privilege of the caricaturist to isolate a fault. He gains point but he likely exaggerates. A