

to the terror of which alone is due the hollow semblance of reverence which fails to deceive even Pius IX. himself; and that its ghastly power is waning, has been amply demonstrated by the indifference with which its recent allocutions have been regarded in Piedmont and Switzerland. But in all former troubles of the Vatican, its owner found consolation in the unwavering fidelity and the blind obedience of Spain, who was ever prompt for any act, whether of abasement or of cruelty, which the Church demanded—ever ready alike to place her own neck beneath the sandaled foot of Rome, or to kindle the fires of the Inquisition, for the extirpation of heresy among her own subjects, and prohibit Christian burial to the heretic subjects of other states who might die upon her soil. But amid all the distresses which now thicken round the Papacy, the contumacy of Spain it is which causes deepest sorrow, as the rebellion of the favourite child is that which most deeply wounds the weak and partial parent: and amid all the indications which Europe presents that the ghastly spiritual terrorism which has so long blinded the understanding, and palsied the intellect of men throughout three-fourths of its extent, is drawing to a close, the attitude of Spain it is which furnishes the most cheering assurance that the long and dreary night is far spent, and the day is at hand. It were comparatively little that the Spanish Government should proceed to carry out its recent enactment for the alienation of the ecclesiastical estates; the great and pregnant fact is the eagerness with which the Spanish people enter into the government project, undeterred by the thunders which fulminated from the Vatican, have echoed and reverberated for months from every altar from the Mediterranean to the Bay of Biscay, against all who should presume to bid for the lands of which the Church declares herself despoiled. Few would have believed twelve months ago, that a Spanish Government would so soon have been found addressing its sovereign in such language as the following:—

“Our impartiality will thus (by the publication of certain documents) be notorious, and the admonition of his Holiness, *unjust in its substance, and violent in its form*, will receive the most complete reply in everything relative to ecclesiastical matters. The Government does not recognise, as no independent Government has ever recognised, the right which the Holy See seeks to arrogate to itself, of declaring null the laws made by your Majesty, with the concurrence of the Cortes; of appreciating falsely the state of our country, establishing a sort of divorce between your Majesty and the nation and the Government; or of placing in doubt the legitimacy of the acquisitions of the estates which were ecclesiastical, alienated in virtue of civil laws, to which the Holy See itself had already given its assent and approbation.”

“But still less could it be imagined that, despite all the influence of anathemas from Rome, and public exhortations and private remonstrances by the local priesthood, the people would flock by thousands to compete for the purchase of the lands of which the Church regards herself despoiled; and that in a country, where, twelve months ago, the possession of a copy of the Bible would have sufficed to mark out the owner for the deadly vengeance of priests and people, the land should be already deluged by publications avowing the boldest hostility to the Romish system.”

PREACHING BY UNLICENSED STUDENTS.

The following was put on record by the Presbytery of West Lexington, at their late meeting:—

“Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this Presbytery that a candidate for the ministry under our care, now at the Seminary at Danville, has been publicly preaching the Word, therefore, Resolved, That in the judgment of this body this course is disorderly, and cannot be countenanced.”—*Presbyterian Advocate*.