

of the priest, not because he is very learned, or better informed, or an angel in purity and brightness, but an angel that is a messenger from God by office. In this, we are taught, consists the difference between Catholic priests and ministers of other churches. The whole supernatural value of the teachings of the Catholic priest is derived, not from himself, or his learning, or ability, but solely and purely from his mission. This constitutes his only claim to be heard and to be obeyed by the people in all things spiritual, and at the risk of their salvation. Thus it is that there is not a priest in the Catholic Church who is not sent (as we maintain) by God, as Paul and Barnabas, selected and ordained by the Apostles were nevertheless sent by the Holy Ghost, (Acts XIII., 4.) Not a priest whose mission has not been received from a Catholic Bishop, and not a Bishop in the Church whose mission, like that of St. Paul and Barnabas, cannot be traced back from Bishop to Bishop, in unbroken succession to Peter and to Jesus, and so it is written, (Rom. X., 14,) "How shall they believe him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach unless they be sent." "Faith then cometh (not by reading but) by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Rom. X., 17.) If these are our arguments to those outside the Catholic Church, how much more strongly must they not apply to all Catholics, and especially Irish Catholics, who have been battling for that doctrine for centuries.

It would be very easy, and humanly speaking, very politic, for us to look on unconcerned like all others, and not run counter, perhaps, to the honest feelings of the most violent of our people. But a Catholic Bishop cannot, dare not do that. His mission from the days of the Apostles was to combat all the errors of the times in which he lived, no matter at what sacrifice. As the Saviour and his Apostles never failed to denounce all doctrinal errors and prevalent vices of their own day, so this same function has ever been the especial business of Popes and Catholic Bishops, and one of the main objects for which they are appointed. Silence, therefore, on my part, especially at the present moment, would be neither honest, honorable, nor conscientious. It would be treachery alike to God, to the people, and to my own position.