

supreme power frequently take pains to enact laws injurious to the Church and the Catholic name; and this before Our very eyes, whose whole care, by the command of God Himself, it is to watch that Christian interests be secure and the rights of the Church inviolate.—But, without any respect for that authority of teaching inherent in the Roman Pontiff, they exclude Our authority from the very education of youth; and if We have the permission, which is refused to no private individual, to open schools for the education of youth at Our own expense, the force and severity of the civil laws invades even those schools.—We are the more deeply moved by the mournful spectacle of these things, inasmuch as the power of remedying them, which We ardently desire, is denied to Us. For We are more truly in the power of Our enemies than Our own; and that every exercise of liberty which is granted Us, since it can be taken away or diminished at the will of another, has no foundation of stability and constancy.

In the meanwhile it is manifest by the daily experience of things that the contagion of evils creeps more and more through the rest of the body of the Christian State, and is propagated among more persons. For the nations estranged from the Church are daily falling into greater miseries; and where the Catholic faith has once been extinguished or weakened, the road is nigh to madness of opinions and desire for novelties. But as soon as the supreme and august authority of him who is God's Vicar on earth is despised, it is clear that human authority has no checks left sufficient to restrain the untamed spirits of the rebellious, or to control in the multitude the ardour of unlicensed liberty. And for these reasons human society, although it has sustained such great calamities, is nevertheless terrified by the suspicion of greater dangers.

In order, therefore, that the Church may repel the attempts of her enemies and may accomplish her mission for the advantage of all, it is necessary for her to labour and contend still more. But in this vehement and varied combat, in which even the glory of God is at stake, and the battle is for the eternal salvation of souls, all the strength and industry of men would be vain, unless heavenly succour fitting to the times was at hand. Wherefore, in circumstances which are dangerous and grievous to the Christian name, this has been our habitual refuge in labours and anxieties, to ask of God by earnest prayers that He would come to the aid of His struggling Church, and would grant to her strength to fight and power to triumph. We, therefore, follow this excellent custom and discipline of Our forefathers, and knowing well that God is the more ready to hear prayer in proportion as there is in men a greater depth of penitence and the will of becoming reconciled to Him, for these motives and in order to obtain heavenly protection and to help souls, by these Our Letters publish to the whole Catholic world an extraordinary jubilee.

Therefore, confiding in the mercy of Almighty God, and by the authority of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, in virtue of that power of binding and loosing which Our Lord has conferred on Us, although un-