

Yet, how clearly it shows the needs of the Church's watchfulness and care and of her warnings. The sentiment this writer expresses is one that the Church has ever had to combat and to warn her children against. Society members see the material good of these organizations. They get to love them too well and to regard these societies as of the first importance, and in this case, as in many others, above the Church.

The Church was established on Christ—founded by Him, sustained by Him. In it are our hopes of eternity through Christ's Sacraments, which she is the dispenser of.

Yet a society lover declares his adhesion to a beneficial society that a few fallible, sinful men established for a selfish though a worthy purpose. It has "visited the sick and buried the dead" let us hope in the spirit of Christian love, rather than in obedience to a legal obligation. As its funds have decreased by its charities to its own members, our informant is incensed at a Bishop who has prohibited such mutual benefit societies from making public appeals for help for their exhausted treasury. He would cast off the Church for the society. Not that he and his fellow-members may sustain the society in dispensing its charities, but that they may call in the general public and get them to contribute to the society. Setting aside the lack of true Catholicity, where is the manliness even of the society living off the public?

The "Journal" wants all professed Catholic societies to be of true and practical Catholics. It has ever inspired them to be loving, and obedient to the Church, and ever has, and ever will, rebuke such sentiments as tend to over-rating the usefulness of societies and carrying them beyond their proper sphere.

By such sentiments, which are made known to us in our own day, we can clearly know why the Masonic and other Orders were condemned.

They were once grand and most useful Catholic organizations. They had among them those who thought their Orders "as good as the Church;" and not even satisfied with claiming an equality with Christ's work, they even strove to gain the mastery over Her. The Church that has withstood the persecutions and assaults of centuries has, in fulfilment of her Divine Mission, cast these ungrateful and disobedient children from her, and has to-day to meet their assaults simply because she would not admit that these societies were her equals, let alone her masters.