

and on snow-shoes, of your message carried within the Arctic circle, of your magnificent distances traversed which made those of us who thought ourselves expert in missionary travel, to lay our hands upon our mouths.

I am far from disparaging the work that has been done in laying foundations and in establishing institutions within your borders and our own. We have not been negligent or indifferent in these regards. Nor am I deficient in reverence for activity in its salutary influence. If we contrast the Eastern and Latin churches, we see how a comparative orthodoxy disunited from enterprize, may result in slumber, and how intense religious energies ever at work may keep in life and vigor a body, seemingly poisoned through and through with the casuistry of Liguori.

You will not then misjudge my affirmation, that while other characters have not been wanting, activity rather than contemplation has marked our administration.

Seeing then that the specific needs of the age and the land in which we live demand of us carefully considered policies as well as industrious work, with what humility and self-distrust should we apply ourselves to these duties! Yes, and with what courage too! If Almighty God by His Blessed Spirit discloses to us an evil that should be remedied, a deficiency to be supplied, how boldly may we approach the throne of grace and ask of God wisdom to meet the exigency!

A childlike reliance in the promises oft-repeated, of an enabling, illuminating Spirit will show itself alike in conservatism and in enterprize. It will lead us to bear a constant witness to the unalterable elements of our holy religion, although all the world may jeer at us as dotards: it will lead us also in things variable and discretionary, to accommodate ourselves to the character of the times and the temper and circumstances of those to whom we minister. It becomes us to be as stubborn and unyielding as the rooted rock, and yet as flexible and accommodative as the blade of polished steel: and it is our confidence in the presence of God the Holy Ghost with His church which now makes us refuse all surrender or compromise, while presently it prompts us to readjust our policies, becoming all things to all men, if by all means we may save some.

Suffer me then to mention some of the particulars to which, leaning on the arm of the Divine Wisdom, we have need to direct our thoughtful intelligence.

1. WE ARE SET TO BEAR WITNESS ON THIS CONTINENT TO A RELIGION OF FACT AND HISTORY.

We may well be thankful that we have in the acts of the Apostles, a faithful account of their interpretation of their commission, and of the means on which they relied for the conversion of the nations.

It was no part of their plan to proclaim a new philosophy, subversive of the systems then in favor. They went out as heralds to proclaim certain strange things which had actually come to pass. While by no means indifferent to the