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THE IDEAS OF A CATHOLIC AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

Translated from the French of Abbé Martinet, for the True Witness.

23.—ADVICE TO MEN IN POWER ON THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE DEFENDERS OF THE CHURCH.

After having laid before our brethren our ideas on the conduct to be pursued under present circumstances, this is what we would say to men in power: Be not afraid of the Catholic word; it is your strongest support. If it be sometimes announced in a hurtful manner, punish, as you have the right to do, the insolence of man, but accept the gift of God.—The harshest truth is infinitely preferable to smooth and polished error.

Be not deceived as to your power: it is God who gives it, and it is God who takes it away, even when men only appear to act. Never is mouth opened, or arm uplifted, without the permission of God. The murderous bullet, though directed by the surest aim, will never reach the breast unless God point it out—this you ought to know.

But God gives power only for the establishment of order, or to chastise a people who are in rebellion against the laws of order. You covet not the mission of chastisement, and in this you are right. Besides that your arm is not strong enough, God, who is a good Father, always ends by breaking his rods, and replacing the hand that strikes by the hand that directs. Use your power then for the preservation of order, and God will take care of it.

Order is the maintenance of all rights, the accomplishment of all duties. The primary right, that which precedes all others, is the right which God has to be known, honored, served. The Church is the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth—she is to contain within her bosom all kingdoms, and to be herself contained in none. She has, therefore, an imprescriptible, an inalienable right to the freedom necessary for fulfilling her mission, freedom to teach the divine doctrine, to administer the sacraments, to regulate worship, to maintain her constitution, her institutions, her laws.—Even in a historical point of view, this right is anterior to all rights.

“The Church is a power anterior, by her date, to the civil power of Europe; a power which accept the civil power, reared it, and made it, instead of being accepted, authorized, or made by it.”

This independence, whereof none have the right to deprive the divine Church, far from being hostile to temporal governments, is, on the contrary, their strongest bulwark. Can you doubt this, if you will only consider the immutable doctrine of the Church on submission to political order, and the power wherewith she enforces that doctrine? Has not one of yourselves rendered this testimony to Catholicity, that it is the greatest, the holiest school of respect which the world has ever seen?”

But the Church can only inspire respect for power by remaining independent of power. Renounce the pitiable error which ruined your predecessors, and think not that you will be stronger when you have the clergy under your control. Religion has no power over men's minds, but in as much as it comes down from heaven. The priesthood does but heap upon itself and those whose interests it espouses, the contempt of God and man, when departing from the foot of the cross to take its stand under any political banner. The one page of the Catechism of the Empire, relative to the chief ruler, the mandates of the Bishops prescribing endless Te Deums, the official sermons of the 15th August, did more to destroy the moral power of Napoleon than the thunders of the Vatican.

Open the great book of rulers, history: you will there see that States have never been more prosperous, more quiet, better obeyed within, better respected without, than when they have abstained from coercing consciences. Those on the contrary, who, endeavoring to secure the concurrence of the hierarchy, sought to chain it to the State, have all undergone the sentence of the Supreme Ruler: “Whoever shall fall on this stone, shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”—St. Matt. xxi., 44.

The Church has no other weapons, it is true, wherewith to oppose her oppressors than patience, prayer, and the word, and hence it is that the powers of the world are apt to think her so feeble that at times they flatter themselves that she is about to breathe her last. But He from whom all power proceeds, laughs at these vain calculations, and with utter contempt He crushes those who pretend to crush His Church.

What more weak, in the eyes of men, than Pius

the Seventh imprisoned in a cell at Savona, and told by a prefect, in conformity with the orders of his Sovereign, that he must cease to be the organ of the Catholic Church, . . . and that, since nothing could make him wise, he should see that His Majesty had power enough to depose him.

What more strong than Napoleon when, at the same period, replying to Canova, who pleaded with admirable intrepidity the cause of the Pope and the Church, he said:—“He offered me resistance! . . . that is why I have crushed him! Sir, I have sixty millions of subjects, eight or nine hundred thousand soldiers, an hundred thousand horses. The Romans themselves never had such a force. I have fought forty battles; at that of Wagram, I drew an hundred thousand cannon-shots.”

Well! four years had not elapsed when Europe, looking in vain for the last bull of the Papacy, heard the last cannon-shot of the Empire. Some years after, the man of sixty millions of subjects could not obtain, from his dastardly jailers, liberty of conscience for himself; he who had pretended to give Catholic Bishops to Europe without the Bishop of Rome, had recourse to that same Pontiff to send him a Catholic priest to his prison.

And now, O ye kings understand! receive instruction you that judge the earth.—Ps. ii., 10. When the princes of the Church hold out against your encroachments, it is your cause which they defend as well as their own. Established to maintain justice, you perish but in departing from the just way.—Ps. ii. 12. They are your own friends, and merit your confidence, the courageous guardians of the law of justice, who try to bring you back into the right way, at the risk of incurring your displeasure. They would betray you, they would dig your grave and their own, the deceiving prophets who would promise you peace when the Lord drew the sword.—Jer. vi., 14.

There is no solid or honorable peace save that which was not long ago proposed to you by a wise and eloquent writer—“peace in liberty, peace in justice; any other peace would be the sacrifice of the rights of truth; it would be shame and dishonor.”

Vainly would the ephemeral organs of opinion exalt the moderation and the wisdom of those who, to gain or preserve your favor, would confine themselves to a disgraceful silence; inexorable history, rending asunder these false reputations, would speedily call forth the public indignation against the base physicians who hailed the breach of my (God's) people disgracefully.

Already has history assigned their share in the misfortunes of France to the bishops of the great age, who defended against Rome the usurper of their liberties, and besought Innocent XI. to employ kindness only on an occasion when it was not allowable to employ courage.

Already has it nailed to the pillory the theologians of the empire, those nondescript prelates who, not content with deliberating in the Tuilleries on the best means of doing without the Pope, tried, in every possible way, to overcome the constancy of the august prisoner of Savona, and had the cruel meanness to render him responsible for the sufferings of the Church.

History will tell, and has already told, that Napoleon would have escaped the fate of all persecutors if, faithful to the instinct which made him esteem and honor such men as Daviau, Emery, and their imitators, he had given a deaf ear to the base apologists of his ambitious views.

More fortunate than he, rulers of France, you now behold on the Episcopal seats, and in front of the second order of the Clergy, men like unto Daviau and Emery. This is your fairest eulogy, the proof of the high wisdom which directs you in the choice of Pastors. It is also your greatest strength. They are worthy of being heard by the people when they preach to them the rights of Cæsar—they who so well defend the rights of God against the imprudent ministers of Cæsar.

You know that the real strength of a government is not in the turbulent population of the cities, the tool of parties; fickle and unstable—it consists in the great mass throughout the provinces and rural districts, whose movements are slow, but irresistible, and which, notwithstanding an apparent political nullity, throwing all its weight into the social balance, eventually carries away those who govern with intelligence, and would govern long.

It was the thought of this mass that was carried out by the man of the 18th Brumaire, when he put an end to the horrors of the revolution; it was that power which, in despite of those who proclaimed that France would have no more Priests, had re-instated the Priests in almost all the churches, nearly a year before the concordat, which did but ratify or sanction the people's work.

The nation is ever the same; it has the instinct of

its great mission, as the eldest son of the Church, to contribute more than any other to the civilisation of the universe. By seconding, or at least not thwarting it, you will be truly strong: and if you have still need of miracles, you have two arms wherewith to work them—the arm of God, and that of your people. THE END.

SIXMILEBRIDGE MASSACRE.—CONTINUATION OF THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

THIRD DAY—THURSDAY.

The inquiry was resumed this morning at half-past ten o'clock. The jury having answered to their names,

Mr. James Frost was then called, and examined by Mr. Coffey—I presided as Deputy Sheriff in the polling booth of this district on the 22nd of July; there was a force of police placed at my disposal on that day; they were not in attendance when I came; about ten or twelve men armed with carbines entered the booth soon after I arrived; I called upon a police officer to remove the police with their arms; he asked me what force I would require to keep order, and I stated about six policemen with batons; I got these men; I am not sure if they had their bayonets; I recollect having heard a shot fired in the course of that day's polling; up to the time I heard that shot fired I was able to preserve order with the six policemen; crowds came in in a short time after I arrived and filled the booth; a good many of them had sticks; some of them had long poles decorated with crosses, and laurels, and flowers; I said to these people that they should leave the booth at once, as I would not permit sticks there; I had no force at the time but the six unarmed policemen; the people did not resist they went away; there was no voter molested or prevented from voting for Colonel Vandeleur or anybody else up to the time of the shots; I speak of what happened in the booth; up to that period there was no interruption whatsoever; the people groaned at some few voters and applauded others; I sat where the coroner now sits; the windows were open; the candidates were represented by agents; some of Colonel Vandeleur's friends were near me; there were complaints made to me by them that the passages in the booth were closed up, and I had them cleared at once; I was able to get free access for the voters without additional force; I think it was about one o'clock when I heard the shot fired; up to that time I saw no blow struck, nor no assault committed; when I heard the shot fired I did not notice it much; I had no reason to suppose it was fired in anger; we were in the act of polling a man when the first shot was fired, and before we had concluded there were more shots; the people rushed up on the table; there was great uproar, and the man was not polled for an hour afterwards; Mr. Wilson came in and said there was bloodshed outside; before Mr. Wilson came in I looked through the window and saw three or four soldiers raise their muskets to their shoulders and take them down again, as if hesitating about firing; they did this two or three times; they went in then towards Miss Wilson's gate; while within my view or observation they did not fire; I cannot tell what regiment these soldiers belonged to; they came in the direction from O'Brien's corner; up to the time I saw the soldiers there was no rioting, tumult, or disorder in the street.

John Goggin sworn and examined by Mr. Coffey—I live in the city of Limerick, and am engaged in the tobacco business; I was in this village on the 22nd July; I recollect the cavalcade of military and cars coming up; I saw them while standing in the lane between the second and third tree in the lane; I was standing beside two or three men who were sitting on the wall of a barley field; I saw the military and cars coming up towards me; the military were in front; at the time I did not see any one I knew; to the best of my opinion there were five or six soldiers in front; I heard a shot fired when the military were within five or six yards of me; I saw Mr. Delmege, jun., there; I know him these fourteen or fifteen years; I did not see anything with him; I heard him give the word to “fire;” before I heard him give the word I saw his hand raised, and the smoke flash from it, but I saw no pistol or anything else; after Mr. Delmege gave the word, I saw a soldier in the front rank present his musket and fire towards the courthouse; after that occurred I heard Mr. Delmege give orders to fire again; he ordered the rear rank to fire.

Some military officers here audibly laughed, and The Coroner—It is better that we should not have, in an important inquiry of this nature, any indications of levity.

Witness (in continuation)—After that I heard a cry from behind me, and turning round, saw a man with blood coming from him; I did not know his

name at the time, but I heard another say “Heffernan run,” and I helped him; I thought it time to run myself, for up to that time I thought it was blank cartridge they were firing; I shoved the wounded man towards the corner of the lane, when two men took him, and I ran up the hill; I saw some men run from the corner of the courthouse, towards the lane where the military were before the shots were fired; I could not say how many were there, but there was not a dense mob of people; there could not have been, to the best of my belief, more than forty persons in the crowd that went; I did not see any sticks in the hands of these people; I saw no sticks from the time Mr. Wilson got them up; I did not see a stone with any man there; I saw no threatening gestures on the part of these people; before that time I had a stand of colors, and I went to the lane to smoke; I left the colors at Mr. Flannery's at the time I saw Mr. Wilson collecting the sticks; the second time he ordered them to fire the shots came pretty quick; I ran up the Lodge-road, and when I got to the hill, I looked back and saw the military firing up after us.

To Mr. Graydon—I saw the first shot fired by a man in the front rank from the soldiers; but the first shot of all was fired by Mr. Delmege.

Cross-examined by Mr. Blackall—I live in Mary-street in Limerick; I have a family of eight entirely; if I never expected money I would have come out here for a patriotic purpose; I brought out some five or six shillings of my own with me; Mr. Delmege was not, I think, on horseback; I did not see a military officer there; Mr. Delmege was between the buggy and the soldiers; I cannot say at whom the stones were thrown; Mr. Delmege wore a dark grey summer coat.

Pierce Creagh, Esq., Rahaline, examined—I am a resident of this county, and live within a few miles of this village; I was in Sixmilebridge on the 22nd of July, and voted for Colonel Vandeleur and Sir J. Fitzgerald; I was not long in the polling booth before I voted; I heard reports of several shots on that day; whilst I was in the polling booth I did not observe rioting or tumult among the people; everything was quite peaceable; the reports were like a dropping fire to the rear of the courthouse and at the flank; when I heard the reports I turned to the window and I heard that the military had fired; I saw soldiers coming from the lane rushing up in a hurry, and some people running away before them; I saw about ten or twelve soldiers rush in front of the window; the soldiers were in the centre of the street; I was looking straight at the soldiers; when they came opposite the window about three of them fired down the street; one loaded in front of the window and fired; I don't know of my own knowledge what regiment they belonged to; after firing, the military drew up in front of the window; before the soldiers fired, upon my oath, there was not within my view or observation any stone-throwing, no riot, and no tumult; I saw no stone-throwing that entire day.

Cross-examined by Mr. Graydon—I can't say I saw more than one or two run by the window, but I saw several persons run to the opposite wall, and crouch up as if afraid of being shot; the people I saw running and the soldiers, appeared to come in the same direction; when the soldiers came in sight they were not in any regular order; I am sure I saw three shots fired.

At six o'clock the court was adjourned to ten o'clock next morning.

FOURTH DAY—FRIDAY.

This morning the enquiry was resumed, when the following witnesses were examined:—

Sub-Constable John Maher sworn—I am stationed at Knocklong, in the county of Limerick; I was upon duty here on Thursday, 22nd of July; I came to Sixmilebridge on the day previous; about fifty men accompanied me; I was in charge of the temporary barrack, which was nearly opposite the courthouse; there were but two men in the barrack on the morning of the 22nd; I was one of them; the other men were on duty about the village; I remember hearing a shot fired that day; I had a view of the street up and down the Lodge-road; I did not hear any riot or assault where we were up to that time; there were no stones thrown, and no threatening conduct on the part of the people; it was, I think, about twelve or one o'clock when I heard the first shot fired; I saw a gentleman whom I believe to be Mr. Wilson on that day; I saw him on a car that morning at the upper end of the street addressing a number of people; I did not hear what he said distinctly; I saw sticks given up; I am fifteen years in the constabulary; I have been in the habit of going to fairs and markets; country people generally carry sticks with them; in consequence, as I think, of what Mr. Wilson said the sticks were readily given up; Mr. Wilson handed them to me, and I threw them into the temporary barrack; I did not count them;

* Catholicism has the spirit of authority; it bases it on principle, with great firmness and vast knowledge of human nature; it is the greatest, the holiest school of respect that the world has ever seen.—M. Guizot, dans les fragments de Catholicism, du Protestantisme et de la Philosophie, insérés dans la Revue Française.