

phical position; in the same city, within the same walls, the different ranks are on fire with mutual envy; all take as their supreme law their own self-interest."

It is again this natural selfishness unchecked by any higher consideration that leads to disregard for authority and consequently imperils the structure of society. There has been, it is true, no lack of legislation. In every country law after law has been enacted and complex mechanisms have been devised for the administration of justice. And yet the essential element for securing the observance of law has too often been neglected. Unless men are taught to obey "for conscience sake," all discoursing about the majesty of the law is in vain. But no such obedience can be expected when the lawmakers themselves have abandoned the teaching of Christ. "Let princes and rulers of the peoples bear this in mind and bethink themselves whether it be wise and salutary that public authority should divorce itself from the holy religion of Jesus Christ, in which it may find so powerful a support. Let them seriously consider whether it be politically wise to banish from public instruction the teaching of the Gospel and of the Church. Experience teaches only too well that where religion is away public authority fails."

In these words the Holy Father indicates one of the principal evils of the time, an evil that is more fatal to national life than the invasion of hostile armies. An education that banishes God from the school can only consume the moral fiber of a people.