

Canadians, I come to beg a favour which I hope you will not deny me. Read the defence as you have read the accusation.

Those who were prosecuting, were men you know very well, while I am a stranger. This is true; but on my side I have a very formidable and powerful ally,—TRUTH.

I come not to annoy you with lamentations or insults, I will only try to rectify mis-statements.

The distance which separates Canada from my country,—the lack of correct and detailed reports,—and the persevering work of those who have an interest in representing to the public the actions of the Italian government under the worst aspect,—have produced this strange effect. Even among the most intelligent men some have given faith to the complaints uttered by those who, being bitter enemies to the Italian government, do not let pass any occasion to arouse against it enemies, and to make a noise. As for these provokers, I do not see any possibility of persuading them,—their hatred will end only with death; but amongst you Canadians are many who, although suffering for the position in which the church has placed herself by her obstinacy, yet are anxious to know the truth.

It is for you I am writing these few pages.

Since I came to Montreal a great number of Catholics, sympathizing with Italy, have questioned me as to whether all that had been said, in the famous meeting of Laval University, was true. Well, then, before you form your own opinion it is your duty to hear and read the