

authorized and modern addition to the Creeds of Christendom,—can never be a national, an *American, Catholic* Church in this land of ours. Its hierarchy, however they may assume the old time titles or the historic vestments or the nomenclature of a primitive, apostolic Catholicity, is not American. Its allegiance is given by formal oath to an alien potentate. Its officials, whether Archbishops, Bishops, Cardinals, practically renounce their allegiance to the government of the United States at their consecration. If they, alone of Roman Bishops or Archbishops, are freed from the vow required of every Roman Bishop at consecration to persecute heretics, *i.e.*, the citizens of the United States who refuse to accept their religious belief and conform to their opinions, it is still true that the un-American teachings of the Syllabus, the dogmas of the Vatican, and the infallible utterances of a faith, which they must accept unquestioned, show that they are servants of an Italian ecclesiastic who, if he sits in St. Peter's seat, has laid between himself and the Apostle, as occupants of the patriarchal chair, men—popes of Rome—of whom impartial, Roman Catholic history tells us that they were in their lives a disgrace to humanity, much more to Christianity itself. The hierarchy of the Roman Communion in the United States, despite its assumptions and boasts, does not possess the privilege of "*home rule*." It must bend the knee and take the decisions not alone of the pope, but of the papal ablegate, ignorant of our language, our institutions, and of the temper of the people to whom he comes to repeat his master's bidding. Nor is this all the depth of humiliation to which this great communion is exposed. It is denied direct access to the Holy Father. It must approach him whom it recognizes as the Vicar of Christ through the Propaganda, just as if in our slavish dependence on some great missionary organization, we could not approach our Bishops, save through the mediation of the Boards of Diocesan or Domestic and Foreign Missions. His Holiness in winning words has called upon us to enter the Roman fold. As spiritual freemen in Christ, Catholic in all that is primitive, apostolic, true and Protestant against all that is false in religion and untrue in morals and life, we will not assume the yoke of bondage. Ours shall be "the free Church in the free State."