

latest despicable acts of the Italian government. Directly his words are addressed to the clergy and laity of his own beloved country. but indirectly it may be inferred that his language contains a ringing warning to the government to look to its security by a modification of its tyranny. He advises his people to resist every invasion of their rights, by all the lawful, Christian means at their command, and to prove, by their conduct in the future, as in the past, that the disturbances for which their associations were suppressed, were more odious to them, as Catholics, than to their Herod-like condemners. It is doubtful if the politicians who control the government will take heed of the dangers resulting to the country through their new policy, that the encyclical so strongly points out. That fools are blind to their destiny because they are blind to the warnings of it, is a truism which holds good for every generation. But one of the certainties that may be expected from it is that it will assist the Catholics of Italy in their agitation for a change of present conditions, at the same time helping them to bear their tribulations until the day when they shall finally triumph over their persecutors.

Nicholas'
Encyclical.

The month of August witnessed the promulgation of one of the most extraordinary documents of recent times—the proposition of the Czar of Russia for universal peace. It was published soon after the close of the Spanish-American war, this time apparently having been chosen by the wily Russian as the most favourable. And a more advantageous time for its proper reception could scarcely be selected. The two late belligerent nations were engaged in becoming friends again, with both of them, we may confidently say, quite willing to arrive at any terms which would ensure a lasting peace. The governments of Europe, seeing one of their number so completely defeated, were taking the deepest interest in the progress of peace arrangements. In the United States there was a manifest disposition on the part of many statesmen to increase the size of the standing army as a better provision for the emergencies of war. Thus, with the people in this frame of mind, the Czar's proposition to all nations