

in Italy, as in many other countries, the clergy and the faithful began preparing for its celebration ; and no wonder, for the reasons which should prompt them to exert themselves to the utmost to impart an exceptional splendor to the event are numerous and cogent.

It will be in the first place a great family festival, and a most favorable opportunity for all the faithful to assert before the world their unshaken faith in the Papacy and their filial submission to its eminently prudent and Heaven-inspired utterances. Much more, as the Sovereign Pontiff is, like the Saviour whom he personifies, *the light of the World* ; the very unbelievers, as they have done so unmistakably on former occasions, will co-operate with good or bad grace, as circumstances may determine, in ensuring the success of the Jubilee of the Church's visible head.

It will, moreover, be for Catholics of every clime a fresh protest, more urgently called for now than ever, against a monstrous wrong which burdens the conscience of the present generation if it does not wring it with remorse : and that wrong is the sacrilegious usurpation of Rome. The longer the intolerable position of the Holy Father, as a consequence of this unatoned for crime, is maintained, the louder should be the protestations of Catholics and the more strenuous their endeavors.

The experience of the past few years has taught the faithful that pilgrimages to the shrine of the Apostles are not free from danger, and that any trumped up pretext is good enough for the enemies of the Papacy to palliate their acts of violence and even of bloodshed. In spite of these drawbacks, pilgrimages no doubt will continue to wend their way towards the Eternal City, but the splendor of former days, when Rome was free, will be wanting.