

instincts alone is able to overcome the violence of the animal instincts from which no mortal is exempt.

The more pliant the soul is under the action of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the more does the Christian Spirit develop and expand. If, on the contrary, the soul prefers to follow blindly the lead of carnal instincts and the lights of mere human wisdom, the influence of the Spirit of Jesus Christ will go on diminishing within it, and even before that divine Spirit has been driven forth by sin, the soul may be said to be gradually losing the Christian Spirit.

We must use every endeavour to determine the Divine Heart of our Lord to diffuse in abundance, proportionately to our wants, in our own hearts first, and then in the hearts of all Christians, that Spirit which will renew the strength of their souls and enable them to regenerate the world. *

We must not deceive ourselves: there is no other efficacious remedy for the evil which is destroying society.

It is not any given disorder that is bringing us to ruin, nor the ambition of any man however powerful, nor the pernicious influence of any depraved writer, nor the shortcomings of any political administration. These are all secondary causes, whose influence would not penetrate beyond the surface of the body politic if the body politic were not being eaten away at its vitals by a mortal evil, from which all these outward evils derive their power for harm. This great evil is the withering away of the Christian Spirit and this decline entails the destruction in modern society of every moral and religious sentiment.

No soldier is an honour to his uniform nor to his

* *Regne Social*, p. 424.