## THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE, APRIL 27, 1877.

## A MAGNIFICENT DEFENCE OF THE HOLY SEE.

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CARDINAL SIMBONI'S CIRCULAR TO APOSTOLIC NUNCIOS. MOST ILLUSTRIOUS AND MOST REVEREND SIGNOR :-The Circular of the Minister Keeper of the Seals to the Procurators-General of the Courts of Appeal upon the late Allocation of the Holy Father-a Cir-cular published yesterday in Rome by the Ministerial press-will most assuredly, not escape the atten-tion of Your Most Illustrious Signoria.

The Circular states that newspapers publishing this Pontifical Document, will not be proceeded against, provided they do not accompany it by any comments expressing adhesion. And this decision is presented as an illustration all the more striking, is presented as an intestation with the informating, of the liberty guaranteed to the Sovereign Pontifi in the exercise of his ministry, since the Allocution, in the words of the Signor Minister, has exceeded all conceivable limits, and is a confirmation of Pon-tifical ingratitude towards a government that has shown itself so free and generous towards the Church.

The fact is that, if another argument were still wanting to throw additional light upon the deplor-able condition of things exposed in the Holy Father's Allocation, the Circular in question furnishes It in a most striking manner. From the moment, in effect, that the publication of the Pontifical expression is subject to the good will and pleasure of a Keeper of the Seals, whoever he may be, the liberty accorded to this expression is only, and can only be, illusory. It is the Minister himself who declares that, if he has not applied the full rigor of the law, it was because he desired on this occasion to be tolerant. To-morrow, this Minister, or his successor, may instead of yielding to the sentiments of toleration boasted of in this case, show himself, with the same right, the strict executor of laws casily invoked, and in default of other incentives resort to the ordinary pretext, made use of without any foundation Pontiff steps out of the spiritual ground and invades the temporal domain. I say that this pretext is, especially in these times Blood without the object of the spiritual ground and invades are made of best stock. Price, 25c, 30c, 35c, four-ply Cuffs, 47c a pair. whatever in the late Circular, namely, that the Roman

I say that this pretext is, especially in these times alleged without the slightest foundation; because, it is manifest to any one who has read the Allocution of March 12, that the exposition of facts it contains concerns only the interests of religion, among which must be claimed, before everything else, a full and genuine independence in the exercise of the Apostolic Ministry. That the injuries inflicted upon the Church-injuries sgainst which we now protest and against which we have never failed to protest in the past, whatever the author of the Cir-cular may say to the contrary notwithstanding—are the sad cousequences of an unjust policy carried into a domain by no means its own ; it cannot then be said that he goes outside of his sphere, who has the right, and whose duty it is besides, to protest until he obtains redress.

But there are other points in this Circular that reveal in a still stronger light, what the liberty so generously accorded to the Sovereign Pontiff, consists in. This liberty consists in this : On the one hand, the press hostile to the Church is permitted Holy Father, by making them the subject of insult and blasphemy, and even by distorting their sense; whilst, on the other hand, the honest press is forbidden to make any comment whatever to confirm the truth of the acts deplored, or which manifest the least deference for the words of the august Head of the Church, for his counsels, and for his teachings. A few provincial Catholic papers, prosecuted for having merely expressed their admiration for the Pontifical Allocution, have already experienced the effects of this prohibition.

As to the clergy in particular, the liberty that is promised to them is formulated in new and more sevore menaces; so that if ministers of religion, in obedience to the voice of the Supreme Head, preach his doctrines, and urge the people to practise them, they will find themselves under the ban of a law which declares this conduct an intolerable abuse, punishable by imprisonment and by the heaviest fines.

And it is in the face of such regulations as these, that an effort is making to induce people to believe in the absolute independence of the Sovereign Pontiff, and to regard as real the concessions said to have been made to the Church by Parliament. The

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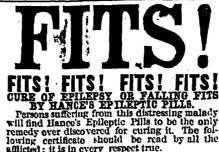
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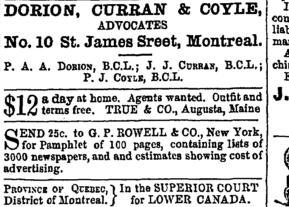
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**HANGE ALLANGE OF ALLENGE ALLANGE ALLA** 



The Fourteenth Day of April, Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-seven.

No. 1414. PRESENT :

The Honorable Mr. JUSTICE PAPINEAU. William Skinner, of the City and District of

Montreal, Trader, Plaintiff: ٧3.

Roch Poitras, in the Bay City, in the State of Michigan, one of the United States of America, Mechanic;

Defendant; AND

Noel C. Lalonde, Photographer, of the said City of Montreal, and Joseph Rivet, of the same place, Photographer,

Tiers Saisis.



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Meeper of Seals appeals to people concerning this, but he does not appear to have great faith in it himself, since as only permission to attack is allowed, and all defence, even a mero simple adhesion, is interdicted, his appeal becomes a mockery. Moreover, the very fact that a Minister, in the

face of a discourse solemnly delivered by the most august authority on carth, ignores every act denounced as so many outrages of which this authority is the victim, and citing it after a manner, to appear before him, undertakes exclusively, in captious and entirely different terms from those he should reply in, to tax it with violence and with inciting revolution, and goes so far even as to reproach it with having uttered complaints, when on the contrary, it should have, according to him, expressed gratitude; this fact alone, I say, ought to suffice to show how much confidence can be placed in his repeated protestations of respect and deference for the spiritual jurisdiction of the Supreme Head of the Church.

Catholic conscience, it may be remarked with truth and without indulging in oratorical phrases, cannot fail to appreciate such a pretension as it deserves. It will especially discern where ingrati-tude exists, which party it is that has always loved Italy, sought its true prosperity, and which even yet, in our day, is its support, its splendor, and its brightest ornament, and what other party is laboring to pluck from our country its greatest glories, (which she owes to the Papacy), and filling the Pontiff's soul with bitterness and sorrow.

Let not Your Signoria, on your part, neglect to call the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the language of the Keeper of Seals, as well as to the remarks it has given rise to. Point out to him in an especial manner that if Italian Catholics have just ground for feeling themselves aggrieved, these same Catholics in spite of the oppression they are now undergoing and notwithstanding certain well known plebesciles mentioned in the Circular, display in a thousand ways, with genuine spontaniety and on every occasion, their firm ad-herence to the Sovereign Pontiff; the Catholics of other countries have none the less reason to complain.

Their respective governments, therefore, have a special interest in seriously examining into such a state of things, according to the recommendations made on this very subject by the Holy Father in his recent Allocution; all the more so, since by invoking as the Circular does, the diplomatic re-lations existing de facto, and the bearing of which has been designedly exaggerated, an cflort is now made to make the responsibility of the evils which the Sovereign Pontiff deplores in Italy, recoil in a measure, upon these same foreign governments. It would also be useful to mention that, if in complaining of not being able, under present circum-stances, to govern the Church in a becoming manner, the Holy Father appeals to the action of the faithful with their respective governments, he however desires, although the Keeper of Seals is purposely silent on this point, this action be done in conformity with the laws of the different countries.

Authorizing you to leave a copy of this message with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, if he expresses a desire for it, I renew to you the assurances of (Signed) GIOVANNI, Cardinal SIMEONI my highest esteem. Rome, March 21, 1877 .- New York Freeman's Journal.

