

POLITICS AND ELECTIONS.

"True and perfect liberty, and equality amongst men, says Pins IX, have been placed under the safeguard of christian law, since *the Almighty who has, made both the little and the great, and has care of both* (Wisdom, VI. 8), will judge without acception of persons, and will exempt no one from *this universal judgment of justice, of which he has fixed the day* (Acts, XVII 31.), in which *Jesus-Christ will come in the glory of his Father, and with his angels, to render to each one according to his works.*" (S. Matt., XVI. 27.) (*Encyclical of 5th December 1849.*)

Men who wish to deceive you, Dearly Beloved Brethren, tell you that religion has nothing to do with politics. Not being able, or not daring to deny the truth of this judgment that Jesus Christ will one day pronounce upon all men, they wish to limit its object to private life. They admit that in one's private conduct it is not lawful to think in an unreasonable manner, to speak like a madman, to act without truth, without honor and without shame. They will acknowledge that the clergy are right when they appeal, in the name of God, against these disorders in private life; but as soon as there is question of politics, these same men accuse us of tyranny and of intolerable despotism, because we condemn the unbridled licence of thinking, of saying, of doing every thing. What! will they refuse us the right of protesting against extravagant ideas, against licentious words, against theft, against perjury, against unjust violence, against blasphemy, intemperance, and even murder itself, whenever these excesses are committed in the name of liberty, or of a political party, or of any opinion? It is thus that they endeavor to destroy in politics, every idea of justice, of truth, of right, of honor and of religion. "Now, says Pins IX, wherever religion is banished from civil society, and the doctrine and authority of divine revelation rejected, the correct idea of justice and of human law becomes obscured and lost, and material force usurps the place of justice and of true law." (*Encyclical of 8th December 1864.*)

Thus they wish to banish God from civil society, and to emancipate themselves from his holy law in public life. They forget that the same God who will judge individuals is *He who will judge the nations* (Ps., VII. 9), and who will pronounce a terrible judgment upon those who govern them: "*Give ear, says the Holy Ghost, you that rule the people. . . For power is given you by the Lord, and strength by the Most High, who will examine your works and search out your thoughts: because being ministers of his Kingdom, you have not judged rightly, nor kept the law of justice, nor walked according to the will of God. Horribly and speedily will he appear to you: for a most severe judgment shall be for them that bear rule.*" (Wisdom, VI. 5. 6.)