

or rather that
poor subjects
the flames, when the
owners, this was a scene of
ages committed by the fire. It is true, the
were much on the alert, and called in the
people to assist in extinguishing the flames, but to no
effect. And they exerted themselves much afterwards
to recover the plundered property, and a great deal
of valuables were regained by their means; they searched
suspected houses, they thundered and anathematized
from the altar, they drew out much at confession, and
thus a great deal of stolen property came back into the
hands of the persons to whom it belonged. But what
sort of a religion must this be, that a large proportion of
the congregations are thieves, so addicted to thieving
that the priests must in the exercise of discipline be-
come police officers and knights of the cat-o-nine tails.
Ministers of other congregations, have never found it
necessary to be thus employed; they may, and it is very
likely they have, persons in their churches of light and
vicious characters, but then they are not found in such
abundance as to render it necessary to disgrace the cler-
ical character as Popish priests are disgraced. No
Christian pastors would be seen at the head of such a
rabble as meet at the chapel, much less would they ad-
minister the sacramental privileges to them, as is done
there statedly and without scruple.

This is the piety, and this is the moral influence pro-
duced, by what is profanely called the Holy Roman