

In the several societies founded by God amongst men, there is a centre of authority whence power and movement radiate to every member. In the Church, which is the embodiment of his supernatural truth, grace and power, the Roman Pontiff is the fountain of light and unity by which all are led onward to holiness of life and eternal happiness. In the commonwealth it is the civil authority, whether vested in king, assembly, people or all together, exercised according to legitimate forms, which preserves peace and secures prosperity. The parent holds the place of God, and wields his power in the family to train up the children to be worthy members of church and country, useful citizens of earth and of heaven. In the labor world, owner and employer hire, direct and recompense the wage earner for their mutual benefit.

Now, the modern spirit of naturalism has carried a revolutionary war into these different societies or spheres of moral action. It has sought to overthrow them and introduce chaos by attacking in each the centre of authority—as it were the heart. The higher the sphere, the more beautiful the order, the more august the authority, the fiercer and more unrelenting has been the onset, thereby showing that it is hate of the Divine Majesty which animates it. It is but a modern type of the old spirit caught from him who began the work of destruction by envying the Most High, and saying “I will not serve.”

Naturalism has faith only in Nature, and pretends to obey only Nature's Law. It scorns the conception of a personal Majesty exalted infinitely above nature, whose sovereign will has called it from nothingness and framed for it laws which He can set aside at pleasure. Much less will it accept the belief that this Sovereign Majesty can stoop down from His throne, speak to His rational creatures, and exact their assent and obedience. But what lashes this spirit into a frenzy of rage is the doctrine that