

hood supply with difficulty the number required to fill gaps made by sickness or death. This holds true especially for France and Italy. Bishops in the former country have declared, that though the existence of the Church is not yet threatened, her action on the masses has become more languid than of old.

It is not that our Lord has ceased to cast the blessed seed of ecclesiastical and religious vocations in to the hearts of the young, for He knows that His Church can not get on without them, and He loves her and He has pledged Himself that she shall endure forever. But if the seed thus cast be abundant, it can never germinate save in comparatively few souls either through want of culture or because it is intentionally and ruthlessly destroyed. What has contributed most to bring about this result in the countries we mentioned above, in whose government and legislation Masonic methods obtain, are the school laws and those regulating military conscription. Of this there seems to be but little doubt, and it is but a further proof, if proof were needed, of the diabolical ingenuity with which the enemies of Christ's Church determinedly work to compass her destruction.

One of the French bishops writes: "Ecclesiastical vocations diminish in an alarming ratio." Another says: "The evil is spreading from day to day, and in some parts has assumed threatening proportions." A third adds: "Let us work to remedy this state of things, for the Church in tears asks it of us; the Church with motherly tenderness grieves at the sight of the multitude of souls going to perdition for the want of pastors, apostles and teachers. *Parvuli petierunt panem et non erat qui frangeret eis.* The little ones have asked for bread and there was none to break it unto them." (Lamen. IV, 4.)

Happily, things have not come to such a pass with