

of masters whom He hath not appointed to teach you nor to enlighten your conscience ?

Assuredly, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, we do not pretend that the duties of your public life, as citizens, are in no wise different from certain other duties you have to perform in your private life. But the very acts of your private life are far from being all alike and the same. Working, sleeping, eating and praying, are occupations very different from one another. Yet, according to the Apostle, they all concern the glory of God and your own sanctification, and must spring from the same supernatural principle which renders them holy and deserving of life eternal. In like manner, the duties of your public life are quite different from those of your private life : but they are none the less imposed by the same will of God, and must be none the less performed with a view to life eternal. Not only Faith, but common sense itself tells you that, if you must perform in a Christian spirit the least of your actions, and even those that seem the least connected with religion, you must likewise, in a Christian spirit, fulfil the more important obligations of your public and civil life.

In truth, in each one of us, there are not two distinct persons, the one a Christian, and the other, not a Christian, the one, a Catholic, and the other that may or may not be a Catholic. There is, in each one of us, but one and a single man, who is bound to be a Christian and a Catholic in all his thoughts, in all his words and all his actions. Wherefore, if, wherever you are, you are Catholics, in whatsoever you do, you must act as Catholics.

Would it not be supremely unreasonable to say, for example, that a tradesman must act as a Christian and a Catholic while he is in church and is performing acts of religion, but that he is no more a Christian and a Catholic in his business transactions or behind his counter, and that, as a tradesman, he is amenable only to his own will, and is independent of every principle of Catholic faith and morals ?

And what would you think of a father who would not watch over his household, leaving it a prey to scandal and disorder ? That such a one is an unworthy Christian, an unworthy Catholic.