Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius X.

(Continued from page 3)

strength and increased fruitfulness. As to the persecuting laws directed against her, history teaches us and in times near enough to us France itself proves that,

Forged by Hatred,

they are always wisely abrogated in the end when the harm they cause to States becomes manifest. Would to God that those who are now in power in France may soon follow on this point the example of the men who preceded them there. Would to God that, amidst the applause of all good men, they may hasten to restore due dignity and freedom to religion, the source of civilization and of the prosperity of nations. Meantime, and as long as an oppressive persecution will last, the children of the Church, having "put on the armour of light" (Romans xiii, 12), ought to strive with all their energy for truth and justice. This is always their duty; it is their duty to-day more than ever. In these sacred struggles you, Venerable Brethren, who should be the masters and guides of all the others, will employ all the vigilant, indefatigable and ardent zeal of which at all times the French Episcopate has, to its credit, given proofs well known to all. But above everything We desire—for it is a matter of extreme importance—that in all the schemes which you will take in hand for the defence of the Church, you will try to bring about the most perfect

Union of Heart and Will

We are firmly resolved to address to you at suitable times practical instructions which will be for you a sure rule of conduct amidst the great difficulties of the present hour. And We are certain beforehand that you will follow them faithfully. Meanwhile, keep on at the salutary work on which you are engaged; revive as much as possible piety among the Faithful; promote and popularize more and more the teaching of Christian doctrine; preserve all the souls confided to your care from the

Errors and Seductions

which they meet with to-day on so many sides; instruct, caution, encourage, console your flock; acquit yourselves in their regard of all the duties that your pastoral charge imposes on you. In this work you will, without doubt, have the unwearying assistance of your clergy. Their ranks are fertile in men remarkable for their piety, knowledge and attachment to the Apostolic See, and We know that they are always ready to devote themselves without counting the cost, under your direction, for the triumph of the Church and the eternal salvation of their neighbors. The members of the French Clergy will, we may be sure, also understand that at this time of trial they should have at heart the sentiments formerly entertained by the Apostles, and they will rejoice to have been judged worthy to suffer opprobrium for the name of Jesus, "rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer reproach for the name of Jesus" (Acts v., 41). They will then bravely

Vindicate the Rights and Liberty of the Church

but without offending anyone; nay, careful to observe charity as becomes above all ministers of Jesus Christ, they will reply to iniquity with justice, to outrages with mildness, and to evil treatment with beneficence. And now it is to you, Catholics of France, We address ourselves; let Our word be received by all as a testimony of the tender benevolence with which We continue to love your country, and as a comfort amidst the formidable calamities you have to face. You know the object that the impious sects who bend your heads under their yoke have set before themselves, for they have themselves proclaimed it with audacious cynicism—to "decatholicise" France. They wish to force out of your hearts every trace of the Faith that crowned your fathers with glory, that made your country prosperous and great among the nations, that sustained you in trouble, that maintains tranquility and peace at your hearth, and that opens for you

The Way to Eternal Happiness

You feel that you must defend that Faith with your whole soul. But let there be no misunderstanding; unless you are strongly united all labor and efforts to repel the attacks which will be made upon you will be useless. Cast aside, then, all the germs of disunion and do what is necessary to ensure that in thought, as in action, your union shall be as firm as it should be amongst men who fight for the same cause, especially when the cause is one of those for whose triumph each ought to voluntarily sacrifice something of his own opinions. If you wish within the limits of your power, and as it is your imperative duty to do to save the religion of your ancestors from the dangers that threaten it, it is absolutely necessary that you should in large measure

Show Courage and Generosity

That generosity you will, We feel sure, exhibit; and by thus proving yourselves charitable towards His ministers, you will incline God to be more and more charitable towards you. As for the defence of religion, if you desire to undertake it in a manner worthy of the Faith, and to carry it on without interruption and efficaciously, two things are above all necessary: you should, in the first place, model yourselves so faithfully, according to the precepts of the Christian law, that your acts and your whole life will honor the Faith you profess; and you should then remain most closely united to those whose special vocation it is to watch over religion here below—to your priests, your Bishops, and especially this Apostolic See, which is the pivot of the Catholic Faith, and of all that can be done for it. Thus

Armed for the Struggle

advance without fear to the defence of the Church; but take good care that your confidence be entirely founded upon God, Whose cause you sustain, and pray to Him continually that He may help you. For us, as long as the struggle against danger lasts, We shall be heart and soul with you; troubles, trials, sufferings—We shall share all with you; and at the same time, addressing God, Who has founded and preserves the Church, We shall beg of Him to cast upon France a look of mercy, to rescue it from the waves beating around it, and to give it soon calm and peace through the intercession of Mary Immaculate. As an augury of these heavenly blessings and a sign of Our special affection, We grant the Apostolic Benediction with all our heart to you, Venerable Brethren, to your clergy, and to the entire French people.

Given at St. Peter's, Rome, the 11th February, 1906, the third year of Our Pontificate.

PIUS X, POPE.

Regina Notes.

The Mission closed Sunday. At eight o'clock Rev. Father Frigon, O.M.I., said Mass and a very large number of communicants appeared at the Altar. At eleven o'clock the Rev. Missionary preached an eloquent sermon on "Faith," showing clearly that Faith was a Divine gift; therefore, those of the Faith should return thanks to God and be steadfast in the teachings of our Holy Religion. He called the man or woman who was ashamed to acknowledge his or her faith before men a coward, and to that one he applied the words of Our Saviour: "Of him I shall be ashamed before My Father in heaven. In the evening his text was "Be faithful." Taking a retrospective view of the past week, he exhorted his hearers to renewed efforts in the right path. The learned Missionary assured his hearers that temptations would come, in fact in greater number, and it behooved the faithful to pray, and pray without ceasing, remembering that God's grace was sufficient and no one would be tried beyond his strength. The Apostolic Blessing was then given by the Missionary to the large congregation present, and Rev. Father Frigon bade them good-bye.

At eight o'clock this (Monday) morning the Rev. Father celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving and there were quite a number present. Rev. Father Frigon, O.M.I., leaves for Winnipeg this evening and carries with him the very best wishes of the Regina congregation. He may be assured that many prayers will ascend to Heaven for him, asking God to grant him all graces and blessings for a long and fruitful ministry, and that our Blessed Mother, to whose loving care he directed his hearers, may protect and guard him while doing Her Divine Son's work.

The weather has grown much colder the last few days.

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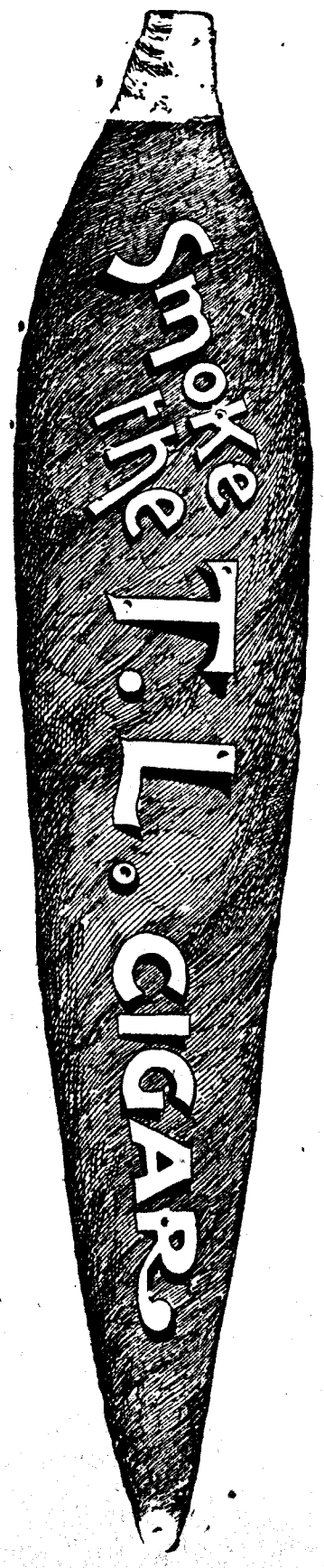

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