

As Archbishop of Nicea, you wrote to the Chapters of Malaga and Granada, and to the Archbishop of Jaen, exhorting them, especially the two first, to delay, and even refuse their acquiescence in the Decrees which his Majesty had issued concerning the establishment of Tribunals for the Defence of the Faith, instead of the abolished Inquisition, and for the publication, in the Parish Churches, of a Manifesto of the Cortes. Your Excellency was not contented with writing such letters as might, through the perversion of public opinion, lead to a schism upon that delicate and important subject. Besides this, your Excellency had the boldness to betray that secrecy, which you had recommended in your Note; at the same time that you enjoined it to the Chapters and Bishop, in order that they might look upon you as the author of a scheme, which tended to stop the exercise of the temporal authorities, and promised them to transmit intelligence of every circumstance, as it should take place, which might contribute to regulate your combined plans for the future. A conduct so contrary to the law of nations; a conduct by which, overstepping the limits of your public character, your Excellency has availed yourself of the immunity which that character enjoys, that you might, as a foreign Prelate, organize the resistance of those individuals, who by reason of their rank, should be true samples of subordination, cannot be looked upon by his Highness with indifference; much less when you represent that conduct as an important and indispensable service due to Religion, to the Church, and to our most Holy Father, whose authority and rights, according to the opinion of your Excellency, are wounded by the Decrees in question, without their favouring thereby the Episcopal Dignity; his Highness is horror struck at the consideration of the fatal consequences which threatened the State, and which naturally must have followed the advice which your Excellency has given, supported as it is by arguments of such an inflammatory nature. But although his office, of Guardian of the state and Defender of Religion, fully authorized him to order you out of these kingdoms, and seize upon your temporalities, his desire of evincing the veneration and respect which the Spanish Nation has always had for the sacred person of the Pope, and the fear of now increasing his sorrows, have dissuaded his Highness from resorting to that measure. His Highness has limited himself to command, that the disapprobation of your Excellency's conduct be expressly declared; as also that he expects that your Excellency will keep in future within the limits of your mission, without availing yourself again of the opportunity, which your character of foreign Prelate affords you, to take the same or similar steps; but that all your remonstrances will be made to government through the medium of the Secretary of State; and your Excellency may be sure, that should you henceforward forget the duties of your charge, his Highness shall find himself in the painful, though absolute necessity, of exercising his full power in the execution of those which he swore to fulfil, when he accepted the high trust committed into His hands.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) *Antonio Cano Manuel.*

Cadiz, April 23, 1813.

To his Lordship the Archbishop of Nicea.

The reasons which have compelled Me to this resolution, and the incontrovertible truths which, as protector of the sacred laws of the Church, I have pointed out in this Manifesto; make me trust, that the worthy Prelates of the Spanish Church, and their respectable Chapters, will contribute, by means of their authority and sound learning, to the fulfilment of the good wishes of the Sovereign Congress, and My own, in favour of Religion and the State.

(Signed) *L. de Bourbon,*

Cardinal of Scala, Archbishop of Toledo,
President.

Cadiz, April 23, 1813.

NOTES.

(1.) Most Illustrious Sir,—My most respected Sir, The Manifesto of the Cortes, the Decree addressed to the Bishops, for reading it on the three first following Sundays during high mass; and several others, relating to the abolition of the Inquisition, to which a Tribunal is substituted, with the title of Protector of the Faith, are on the eve of publication.

The Lords Bishops, resident in this town, intend to answer, that they dare not take any step upon such an important subject, without consulting their Chapters; and so they will gain time to expose whatever may be deemed fit upon the subject.

The Chapter of this Church *sede vacante*, grounded on a petition of their Vicars, and other reasons which shall be expressed in their answer, will refuse to execute the Decrees. I have deemed it my duty to represent, in the name of his Holiness, against the Decrees, unless they are previously consented to, or approved by the Pope; or, in his defect, by a national Council. I think it necessary to transmit this information to your Illustrious Lordships, trusting that on such an important business you will conform yourselves with the opinion of all the other Prelates; doing thereby a great service to religion, to the Church, and