

Far, then, from wishing peace to the Church, Sire, your Government implacably make war against it ; and not content with doing so in your own Empire, it brings about the same war elsewhere ; and, above all, at Rome—notwithstanding your former declarations in favor of the independence of the Head of a Church which numbers fourteen millions of believers in your Empire.

The world knows, and with absolute certainty, that if the Italian Revolution has thrown off all restraint, and persecution is increasing in Rome and preparing for any venture, it is because that revolution is encouraged, urged on, and sustained by, the Government of your Majesty. Yes, it is in reliance upon the German Empire that the enemies of the Church are working for its downfall, and uniting in their efforts to enslave the Papacy.

The Gospel, Sire, warns you that they will not prevail. But it warns you also that the *Son of man will come at the hour when you will least expect Him* ; He cannot be long, Sir ; you know it by the weight of years. Do you, then, who judged the earth, think of your own judgement, for it is nigh.

In speaking thus to your Majesty, I am more truly devoted to you, as I declare before God, than are the courtiers whom flatter you, and who, without doubt, will treat me as an enemy of the Empire. The enemies of the Empire are those, Sire, who blindly urge you to sanction a persecution which is bewailed by many millions of Catholics, whose sons and brothers have died for your glory. The enemies of the Empire are those who excite you to acts which gain for you the applause of the revolutionists of the whole world ; and this applause, as your Majesty must know, is of sinister omen.

I have spoken the truth to the King, and he truth shall not be overthrown : *I will speak of Thy testimonies in the sight of Kings, and shall not be confounded.* No, Sire ; for against the truth might is no avail. Great armies may darken the air by the smoke of battles, but the smoke is soon scattered, and reaches not the Heavens in which the light remains resplendent. Yield, Sire, to the truth, if you wish to be in reality a conqueror: *He that governs his own spirit is better than a taker of cities.*

ATHANASIUS CLEMENS.