

and the effects will be very good. Faith, love, charity, and universal justice will result. But if you present me with material objects, you will materialize my faith and my heart. The wafer, the images, and the pictures used in these processions are objects of this kind. I say that the people who go to those processions have their curiosity gratified, but come away from them without any improvement in their hearts and minds. They not only materialize but they demoralize the people. Whether in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, or Mexico, the days of those processions are days of error, criminality, and sin. What is the great end of going to them? Balconies and windows along their routes flourish with beautiful ladies, who display their new dresses; while gentlemen parade in the streets below. Then there is also drunkenness, rioting, and mobs. When two small villages have processions on the same day, and there is rivalry between them as to which of their Madonnas is the more miraculous and powerful; we have in many instances rioting if the processions chance to meet, and then they finish with broken heads. As it is a great honor in my country to carry the pole on which the image of the Virgin is fixed, it is usual for the priest to dispose of the privilege of carrying it by public auction to the highest bidder. This is good for the pocket of the priest, my dear brethren. But it may be said that such is not the state of things in Ireland. The clergy may be good, kind, tolerant men. I have my doubts as to that; but without making any questions on the point, I would ask the people would they be better after those processions? Would they be more spiritual and Christian-like after having witnessed them? Would they not better perform their duty as fathers, mothers, wives, and husbands, by not losing entire days of labor for the sake of going to those processions? The last fact I have to state respecting them is, that they deceive the people who use them. Queen Victoria is a constitutional sovereign, who has no need of brute force to support her crown. No (applause). Her English subjects and her good-hearted Irish people suffice to preserve her on the throne. But the Italian despots are not like her, and therefore they have need of lies, ecclesiasti-