

they may weaken each other. But if there appear any likelihood of reconciliation, then as soon as possible let us endeavor to be the mediators, lest others prevent us.

VI. The nobility and populace must, by all methods, be persuaded into a belief, that the Society was instituted by the particular direction of divine providence, according to the prophecies of the abbot *Jachim*, that by this means, the church, though depressed by the attempts of heretics, may be raised again to its primitive lustre.

VII. The favor of the nobility and superior clergy once got, our next aim must be to draw all cures and canonships into our possession, for the more complete reformation of the clergy, who heretofore lived under the certain regulation of their bishops, and made considerable advances towards perfection. And lastly, let us aspire to abbacies and bishoprics, the obtaining which, when vacancies happen, will very easily be effected, considering the supineness and stupidity of the monks; for it would entirely tend to the benefit of the church, that all bishoprics, and even the apostolical see, should be hooked into our hands, especially should his holiness ever become a temporal prince over all. Wherefore, let no methods be untried, with cunning and privacy, by degrees, to increase the worldly interests of the Society, and then, no doubt, a golden age will go hand in hand with an universal and lasting peace, and the divine blessing of consequence attend the Catholic church.

VIII. But if our hopes in this should be blasted, and since offences of necessity will come, our political schemes must be cunningly varied, according to the different posture of the times; and princes, our intimates whom we can influence to follow our councils, must be pushed on to embroil themselves in vigorous wars one with another, to the end, our Society, (as promoters of the universal good of the world) may, on all hands, be solicited to contribute its assistance, and always employed in being mediators of public dissensions; by this means the chief benefices and preferments in the church will, of course, be given to us by way of compensation for our services.

IX. Finally, the Society must endeavor to effect this at least, that having got the favor and authority of princes, those who do not love them, may at least fear them.