

powers, and the vesting them in different persons; in claiming for the church the sole right to define doctrines of faith and morals; and to fix the limits of its own jurisdiction in that sphere; in the indissoluble union with and submission to the universal jurisdiction of the Holy See. Such, then, was the Cæsarism of the heathen world, the dominion of man over man, both in matters of civil obedience and in matter of religious worship; and such was the restraint of this absolute and intolerable sway of man over man by the separation of the two powers, temporal and spiritual, into distinct authorities and spheres of jurisdiction vested in distinct persons. But Cæsarism is in human nature. It is the government of flesh and blood, or of "blood and iron," and though restrained for a time by Christianity, it has never been extinct. Through the whole history of Christendom, from the fourth to the sixteenth century, it has been always striving to reassert itself.

THE POPE AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

LETTER TO HIS MAJESTY KING WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA, EMPEROR
OF GERMANY, BY ATHANASIUS CLEMENT.

SIRE:—In the Imperial and *doctrinal* letter, which the journals of the world have reproduced, your Majesty reminds the Sovereign Pontiff that the Catholic Church acknowledges the obligations of obedience to temporal authority, *as an emanation of the Divine will that is revealed to us*. Yes, Sire, the Church acknowledges that all power comes in the beginning from God, according to the words of the Apostle, *all power is from God*; and that we must obey the public authority by virtue of such Divine right. She does not, however, in acknowledging such Divine right, mean that the various forms of political power have been revealed by God, or that the trustees of that power have been personally and supernaturally designated by God; or these forms and these designations are only, under the action of Providence, a matter of positive and historical human right; she means that, as man has been created for social life, society is willed by God; and that therefore God wills also the authority which is its fundamental condition. This is the *natural* Divine right which so many statesmen, so many