

Material progress has for its object the development of wealth, notably in the industries which have grown in this century in proportions unprecedented in the history of the world. Leo XIII. tells us very plainly that the Church, far from blaming industrial advancement, approves of it ; for material advancement represents man's conquests over matter, and, consequently, the betterment of his earthly lot. None applauds material progress more heartily than the Church. She contents herself with pointing out abuses that may be made of worldly goods and wealth, abuses that go so far sometimes as even to make man forget that he was born for higher things.

Turn to another and loftier sphere. There is a vast field of action, and even progress, in the domain of the intellect. The mind of man is continually widening the limits of the field of human science, not merely in the speculative order, but in the physical and historical. The Church encourages all progress in their vast domain ; she even insists on her children undertaking these peaceful conquests ; she offers every facility in her halls of learning and research ; she holds out the strongest inducements to victory ; and she crowns the victor when the day is over. She rests satisfied with warning her men of science not to misuse their weapons ; not to seek to put their science in opposition to faith which rests on the Word of God itself. She warns thus wisely, not through fear of injury to herself, for the Church of God is outside such danger, but through love of her children whose faith might suffer.

In a still higher sphere there is spiritual progress ; there is the directing of the human will and the onward march towards spiritual perfection. This is the progress that the Church desires and fosters more than any other ; for it is this that leads men directly to heaven. Is there reason for surprise, then, when we see the Church safeguarding the spiritual interests of her children, not merely by discouraging anything and everything that could injure their souls,