

*of hell shall not prevail against her.* (Mat. XVI. 18.); but it is not the less true that, after the example of the apostles, we should have recourse to the Divine Heart of our Saviour, and labor, with all our strength, by prayer, vigilance, by all the means which Providence puts at our disposal, to ward off the danger, and thus to secure our part in the victory which Jesus vouchsafes to share with us.

The war, which is now waged against the Church, without as yet shedding the blood of Catholics, is not the less dangerous, nor the less fitted to afflict our hearts. Revolution rages every where in Europe. Its fatal doctrines, infiltrated into all the members of the social body, by indifference in education, if not by its overt impiety, seek to gain ground and to renew the horrible scenes which have lately terrified the world. Anarchy, the offspring of revolutionary principles, threatens to become the permanent state of things, in countries formerly distinguished by their devotion to those principles of order and of submission to the lawful authority, which constitute the glory and prosperity of nations. The spirit of evil breaks loose with more fury than ever, spreads every where the most pernicious principles, and assails the Church of Christ, *the pillar and ground of the truth.* (1st Tim. III. 15.)

The governments of Germany and Switzerland hesitate not to attack the faith and religious feelings of their Catholic subjects, and, when they perceive that they cannot intimidate, and silence the bishops, or loosen the bonds that unite them to the Holy See, they despoil them, expel them from their homes, and send them into prison or exile.

Even Rome, the holy city, the patrimony of the universal church, has become the object of the most odious, the most flagrant and the most sacrilegious of usurpations. The Supreme Pontiff has been deprived of his temporal power so necessary to the liberty of the Church; religious orders are despoiled; virgins consecrated to God are driven from their peaceful retreats; when the churches are not given over to the despoiler, they are deprived of the resources which the piety of the faithful had contributed towards the splendor of the divine worship, and the support of its ministers. The institutions of charity have not escaped the rapacity of the invaders, who vainly endeavor to