

repelled the insults of the daily press with vigor and decisiveness.

On August 8th the columns of the paper contained a letter, dated October 18th, 1862, on the American War, from Pope Pius IX to Archbishop Hughes, deploring the awful fratricidal strife among a people dear to his heart, and praying Catholic prelates to exert themselves for peace.

If all American citizens were as loyal to the constitution of the United States and to all just laws of the State as McMaster was, our Republic would be the happiest in the world.

END OF CHAPTER IV.

Our American Foibles.

DISCUSSED BY SAM HOBBY AND MICK SENSE.

For the Carmelite Review.

TAXATION AND CUSTOMS.

"Well, Mick, I am really curious to hear what you think of our system of taxation."

"Before I answer you, tell me what kind of taxation you have reference to. Is it federal or state taxes, direct or indirect ones?"

"Of course I mean any kind of taxes, levied by the authorities for any purpose."

"Taken in this comprehensive way, I answer that in my opinion our taxes, for the most part, are unjust in themselves, unjust in regard to apportionment, and unjust in the general system."

"Dear me! I was prepared to hear you object, but I confess I was not prepared for such a wholesale condemnation. It will be impossible for you to prove your assertion. Now, for instance, can taxes be unjust in themselves? Has not any government a right to taxes, and was there ever a government carried on without them?"

"You are mixing up taxes and taxation. Certainly the right to taxation is an inherent right of any government, because those that enjoy the benefits of a well-established and well-conducted government, should also bear the burdens of the same. But the government, whilst using the right of taxing, may abuse its power in the practical execution in many ways. How far, according to your idea, Sam, does the right of taxation extend?"

"Naturally as far as the wants of the government."

"Well enough, but how far do the wants of the government extend?"

"That is a question more easily asked than answered. The wants of the government, as I look upon the matter, comprise all the expenses necessary for an efficient administration, proper representation, and the defense of territory, life, limb, and property of its subjects."

"Quite correct. Now, in the case that improvements, so called, are, neither necessary nor in any way useful to these purposes, would you grant the right of taxation all the same?"

"No, certainly not. The government is, in justice, bound to refrain from raising more taxes than are necessary, and we Americans are constantly condemning Europe for raising millions to keep up the superfluous splendor of royalty and kindred matters."

"Yet we Americans are paying yearly millions of dollars for things just as superfluous as the splendors of royalty, and even more hurtful."

"I am not aware of any. What are they, pray?"

"We need not go far to find them. We fit up the White House annually with an expense of thousands, whilst the furniture, carpets, etc., might be used for years. We establish government or national parks, and spend thousands in beautifying them, though the nation, as such, receives no benefit from them. We squander millions every year in useless and unmerited pensions; we spend millions for high schools, which do not benefit the people, but the chosen few in easy circumstances, who could well afford to give their children a higher education at their own expense. The nation threw away millions of acres on railroads."

"This is not a tax."

"It is a tax, indirectly, because, depriving itself of this source of income, compels the government to resort to taxation for other purposes."

"But railroads are a public benefit, and would not have been built but for these government grants."

"Perhaps not by the same company, or at that time, but they certainly would have been built. Companies do not build rail-