

*Temporal Power of the Pope*, by Rev. Humphrey Moynihan, D.D., will claim the attention of Catholic readers in general. From the fact that the Vatican extended condolences to the Italian nation at Humbert's assassination, the rumor was set afloat that Leo had yielded to the Italian claims. The time was ill-suited for contention, the Vatican, however, in order to define its real position, was forced to break silence and reassert its rights, denouncing again the spoliation of the Papal territory. Dexterously availing himself of the interest excited by the events of last August, Rev. Dr. Moynihan places before the public, in clear and cogent terms, the salient points of the Roman Question. Arguing for the necessity of the temporal freedom of the pope in exercising his spiritual jurisdiction, the writer has this to say :

"The Church is essentially a sovereign and complete society, possessing its own organization and laws, and having to do with the moral and spiritual interests of mankind. At its head is one who is the Universal Teacher of Christendom. The spiritual ruler of many nations cannot be the vassal or dependent of a government ; the man who guides the destinies of a mighty spiritual empire, standing for justice and righteousness amongst the nations and rulers of nations, must be independent of political control. Independence is the very breath of life of a moral power. 'Let the very enemies of the Temporal Power of the Apostolic See,' wrote Pius IX, 'say with what confidence and respect they would receive the exhortations, advice, orders, and decrees of the Sovereign Pontiff if they beheld him subject to the will of a prince or government.' The Pope must be above suspicion. His authority must not be neutralized by mistrust as to his motives or uncertainty as to his freedom of action. If Leo XIII, were but the first subject of the new King of Italy, he would ere long be regarded as the instrument of a government, and his decrees would be scanned for evidences of Quirinal diplomacy. Other nations would not turn to him with that unquestioning confidence which is due to the Father of the Faithful. Sooner or later the Roman Pontiff would be no better than the Archbishop of Canterbury, who exercises spiritual jurisdiction only under the shadow of a sceptre, and the Church Catholic would shrink to the limits and the servitude of a national institution."