

echo in my heart,—“With what right,” you exclaim, “could the State seize that which belongs to the citizens?”

My mind wandered back to the past years. I thought I saw thousands of hungry shadows dying in terrible agonies of want, pronouncing before you the same cry that you have uttered now, without any cause. How many unhappy ones, under the paternal rule of the Pope, without any crime or offence, have lost their goods acquired with great toil. In order to defend my government so publicly and so basely slandered, I could, in my right to make use of reprisals, recite the acts of *true* and not *fictitious* spoliations, executed by the orders of him who ought to be the father of all. But I will remain calm, and only endeavor to convince my Canadian brethren of your errors.

Excited by passion, blinded by hatred, you see in the Italian government not only the enemy of the Pope, but even the enemy of religion. You add insinuatingly that “in order to destroy the faith, people have forged a new weapon,—hunger.” “Let us take away from the priests,” you say, “let us take away from the religious communities, let us take away from the Pope, every means of subsistence.”

Truly professor, all this abuse serves but to make me smile with pity, and I would not answer it, if I had not wished to convince Canadian people, who are so far from my country, and who are daily receiving false reports. Oh! how many thousands of poor Canadians who truly suffer need, would be only too happy to suffer the hunger of His Holiness! We are used to such false reports; and