

1 Nov 1860

PASTORAL LETTER.

JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE HOLY SEE, BISHOP OF TORONTO:

TO THE VENERABLE CLERGY AND BELOVED LAITY OF THE DIOCESE,

GRACE AND BENEDICTION:

Whilst the heart of the whole Catholic world beats with profound sympathy for our Holy Father, in the recent outrages heaped on him as Head of the Church and Guardian of its Patrimony, and whilst the Faithful run with signal unanimity to deposit at his feet noble offerings to alleviate his pecuniary embarrassments, You, Beloved Brethren, We are sure, are also eager to join in their pious demonstrations. If We have thus far delayed giving you an opportunity of doing so, it was that you might be enabled, after an abundant harvest, to make your offerings more worthy of your pious generosity, and more in keeping with their august object.

The recent evils which have swept in a destructive tide over the Patrimony of St. Peter, and have stirred all generous hearts with just indignation against their infamous authors, make the present an appropriate occasion to come to the aid of our Holy Father, and imperatively require us to give a substantial proof of our affection to him. It is enough for us to know that our dear and Holy Father is in distress, to cause us to offer him the little assistance in our power. Some noble souls have magnanimously given up their lives in his holy and just cause, and shall not we hasten to give some of our worldly goods for the same end?

The sacrilegious and unjust plundering invasion of the Pontifical territory has been carried on by an excommunicated Royal filibuster and vile mercenary followers, who have everything to gain by war, and nothing to lose, aided and abetted by a false friend, the worthy nephew of the persecutor and betrayer of Popes. He, whilst holding out vain hopes of protection, wilfully flattered the Catholic world into the belief that the Patrimony of St. Peter was safe, until the alien banditti of his accomplice had actually got possession of provinces which might have been saved from their sacrilegious grasp had the Catholic Powers suspected the danger.

We hoped that at least Napoleon III. had read history and the fate of sacrilege with profit, and that he would have been restrained from prosecuting his Italian programme, by even a love of perpetuating his name on the French throne in the one slender hope vouchsafed to him by a benign Providence, as an encouragement for his good beginnings. But, alas! ambition—the fatal star of his uncle—has thrown already a dark, lurid glare over the horizon of this self-doomed and vacillant dynasty.

The dejected Italians are experiencing already that their wild hunt after liberty and fortune is ending in bitter disappointment. Exorbitant taxations and the mob rule of vicious men will soon make them long to be received as servants in their Father's house.

Reverend Pastors will please form Committees to take up Subscriptions, which will be sent to Us as soon as possible, together with the names of the donors, that they may be enregistered and sent to Rome.

The Faithful will likewise continue to pray fervently for our Holy Father; and the Rev. Pastors will also continue the prayer *Pro Papa* at Mass, till otherwise directed, together with the three *Paters* and *Aves* after Parochial Mass on Sundays.

This Pastoral shall be read by the Rev. Clergy to their respective Flocks on the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at St. Michael's, on the Octave Day of All Saints, 1860.

† JOHN JOSEPH,

Bishop of Toronto.

By order of His Lordship,

GEORGE R. NORTHGRAVES, Pr.,

Secretary.