

if the law of the year 1866 was an iniquity, it is not for M. Tessier or any other person to oppose what has been decreed by a legislative body of a friendly nation in reference to the internal questions of the country.

When the Italian troops entered Rome, when the temporal power of His Holiness was declared fallen, the Roman people, or, if that please Mr. Tessier better, the subjects of the Pope, by their vote declared their wish to be annexed to the young kingdom of Italy. It was logical that the same laws existing in the other Italian provinces ought to be also applied to the Roman province; nevertheless, before proceeding to the application of the law of 1866, the honest government of Italy, on account of the exceptional conditions of Rome, framed a new bill and submitted it for the consideration of the Parliament. The law of the year 1873 was, therefore, not an increase of injustice, as you are pleased to call it, but on the contrary was a chivalrous generosity toward the religious corporations of the old province of Rome.

The Italian Government could have avoided a new discussion—the annexation giving, as a natural result, the assimilation of the law; and the Communities of the Roman provinces would have had nothing to do but submit.

Allow me now to correct another inaccuracy of a greater importance.

“Nobody thought,” you say, “that this law could reach the Propaganda, especially when the word of Victor Emmanuel seemed to have been formerly pledged; for ten years the government had acted as if the law of the year 1873 had not included the Propaganda.”