

tian faith and morals. The device as well of Christian nations, as of individuals, consists in these words of the Saviour : « Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his justice ; and all these things shall be added unto you ». (Matth. VI, 33.) Such is the fundamental precept of Christian wisdom and such is likewise the fundamental precept of political wisdom. It is justice that makes nations great and powerful ; it is impiety that ruins and destroys them. The first good of a nation is therefore Christian Faith, the groundwork and foundation of public and private morals ; and such is the good you must intend, desire and secure, as much as it lies in your power, to future generations, as your forefathers have secured it to yourselves.

This means to say, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, that you would be grievously guilty in giving your votes during the elections to men who are hostile or indifferent to Christian ideas and pretend to be concerned only with material interests, even when they may come in conflict with the religious and moral interests of your country. To estimate the religious spirit of a man, you possess a safe rule that cannot deceive you : compare his principles with those proclaimed by Holy Church through the teaching of her Pastors. For there is no sincere and true religious spirit outside of a perfect submission of mind, will and conduct to the authority of the right Pastors established by God to watch over the true interests of religion.

After Christian faith and morals, the chief good of a country is peace in order. Two things especially favor and secure peace and order in civil society : the stability of its institutions and laws, and respect for justice. No doubt, human laws and institutions are essentially variable, because they are imperfect, and may be modified by time and circumstances. But, on the other hand, nothing is more contrary to good order and the peace of society than the instability of the institutions and laws that govern it. This means, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, that under ordinary circumstances, if you are desirous of the good of your country, you must give your votes to wise and prudent men who govern according to tradition and acquired experience, rather than to rash and adventurous spirits always ready to believe and to say that, in order to improve the condition of