

favoured by fortune ; intemperance that seemed to have been banished from the country, appears again with its usual train of crime and degradation ; associations, under the cover of secrecy and the pretence of more efficacious benevolence, endeavour, these few years past, to strike their roots into the very heart of our cities and even some of our country parishes, braving thus the censures of the Church, and successfully ensnaring too confiding catholics : should not all this inspire us with well grounded alarms for the future ?

We beseech you, dearly beloved brethren, to beware of all these novelties which cannot obtain among you unless at the expense of your faith and morals. Remember that if you are not firmly attached to your religion, and faithful in the performance of the duties it prescribes, vainly will you look for your preservation as a people. If you dissolve this social bond, your principal, if not your sole strength, you will share the fate of so many nations both of ancient and modern times, that have been swept from the face of the earth, like those mentioned by holy Job, whom the breath of the Lord has annihilated in punishment of their crimes : *Vidi eos qui operantur iniquitatem . . . flante Deo, periisse* (Job, IV. 8). What indeed has become of those powerful nations recorded in the annals of history ? Did not Moses seem to foretell their ruin, when speaking of the inhabitants of the land of promise, he informs us they were destroyed on account of their iniquities ? *Propter impietates suas istæ deletæ sunt nationes*—(Deut. IX. 4.) Is not the history of the jewish people, from the beginning to the end, a standing proof that God rewards or punishes nations, according as they fulfil or transgress his holy law ? Should not the misfortune that afflicts still, after more than eighteen centuries, that unhappy people, warn us of the fate awaiting us, if, like them, we were to abandon the ways of justice ?

You, whom your talents or your fortune have placed at the head of society, you have more than ever great obligations to fulfil. Remember that the more you are elevated above others, the more you are bound to edify them by christian piety. It is not in vain Divine Providence has granted you a more liberal portion of its gifts : it wishes you to use them for the advantage of religion, the sole guarantee of the safety of a nation. Assist us then by word and deed to avert impending misfortunes ; assist us to preserve our country, still so religious, from perverse doctrines, held out as the true means of promoting its advancement in the road of progress, but rather tending to make it retrograde into the most disastrous errors ; assist us to reinstate in its rights parental authority so necessary for domestic happiness ; assist us to overcome vanity and intemperance, two scourges that would infallibly end in the universal ruin of society, by causing first that of the individual ; assist us finally to dissuade our brethren from becoming members of Secret Societies which catholics cannot adhere to, without forfeiting the obedience due to the decrees of the apostolic see, and incurring the anathemas of the Church. All this we confidently expect from the love you bear to your religion and your country ; by such conduct you will greatly add to the glory of the former and the happiness of the latter, and the catholic portion of the archdiocese, following your footsteps in the career of virtue, will be crowned, like the faithful inhabitant of Jerusalem mentioned by the Psalmist, with an unalterable and endless prosperity : *Non commovebitur in æternum qui habitant in Jerusalem* (Psalm. CXXIV. 1. 2.)

In fine, let us not neglect, dearly beloved brethren, the singular favours the God of mercies affords us during the holy time of the Jubilee. Let us unite our prayers with those of the great catholic society, to obtain from heaven the choicest blessings on the universal Church and on the sainted and illustrious Pontiff presiding over it. Let us specially supplicate for the Church of Canada, that its children contributing to its glory by the sincerity of their faith and the regularity of their morals, may render it the joy of the supreme Pastor of souls for evermore.

For these reasons, having invoked the name of God, we have ordained and do ordain as follows :—

1°. The above mentioned Apostolical Letters of His Holiness the Pope Pius IX. will be read and published throughout the whole archdiocese, on Sunday the sixteenth of May next, at the prone of the parochial churches or chapels and others wherein divine service is publicly celebrated, in the chapters also of all religious communities ; and if

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