

was but a golden opportunity for him to prove the inherent strength of the Papacy and the adaptability of its doctrines for all times and nations. Leo, neither daunted by the unfavorable condition of his surroundings nor perplexed by the number and magnitude of the difficulties which opposed him, eagerly seized the opportunity, and his attitude towards the world of to-day has given the death-blow to the foul calumny that the Church is unsuited to the age and antagonistic to civilization and progress. He has proved himself the friend and sympathizer of all the legitimate hopes and aspirations of the century, approving and aiding what is good, condemning what is bad and giving to all the movements of the age a solid basis and a Christian direction.

Like his illustrious predecessors, Leo is the uncompromising champion of truth, both natural and supernatural. Truth is the life-blood of society, the principle which gives it beauty and energy for the accomplishment of the ends for which it was established. In the present times when faith is disintegrating and morals weakening, when the human mind, intoxicated with its brilliant triumphs over the mysteries of nature and frenzied with the success of its investigations in the realms of science, when humanity is restlessly seeking new forms of social and political life, men are apt and alas! too frequently forget the great fundamental principles on which the life and well-being of society and states depend. On this account often has the voice of the Holy Father been heard in salutary admonition, recalling to men the great truths on which the stability and prosperity of nations depend, and urging them to look higher than to mere natural ends and to soar above all selfish and ephemeral interests, and giving authority and dignity to his words by the example of a spotless life.

Again we see him defending the interests of the masses against the encroachments of greed and injustice, espousing the cause of the poor and the weak against the oppression and heartlessness of the rich, reminding employers of their obligations and the rights of their employees, warning rulers of their responsibilities and the duties they owe to the people, and at the same time asserting and upholding the rights of legitimate authority, and exposing the shallowness and absurdity of the social theories of the godless and pseudo-philosophers of the day. Not only has