

able and most highly respected clergymen, as well as of others whose opinions did not agree with its own, was especially discreditable. The tendency of these things was to intr- duce side issues and make it still more difficult clearly and fairly to discuss a subject, which at the best, is a delicate one and rather complex, involving as it does, questions social, political and religious. To get these different elements disentangled as far as possible is essential to a clear understanding of the matter. And yet they are so closely involved that one can scarcely be treated without reference to the others.

What we may call the social side of the subject stands most by itself and is probably the simplest. We can all agree here with the *Presbyterian Review* when it says that while we should be clear in our denunciation of the errors of the Church of Rome we should be "tender and sympathetic with those who hold and teach them. * * * We ought to keep ourselves free from entanglements which would separate us from our Roman Catholic friends and neighbors." In short, our bearing in our social relations should be towards all (and to our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens no less than to others) that becoming Christian manhood.

The political and religious aspects of the subject are more complicated. It will help us to decide what our attitude towards the Church of Rome should be if we clearly comprehend what the attitude is which is assumed by that Church. It claims of course to be *the* Church of Christ—not a branch, but the living tree itself; while the other denominations are but dead limbs that have fallen to the ground, whose only chance for life consists in their being grafted again into the parent trunk. Along with the claim to be the only true Church, goes the assertion of infallibility. And from this double claim emerges the further demand that this true and infallible Church ought to bear rule, not only over every individual conscience, but over the government of every state. The true "Catholic" in whatever country he may be a citizen must place the claim of the Pope upon his allegiance higher than the claims of the government under which he lives. Consequently, by every means in his power, the influence of the Mother Church must be extended, in the Legislature, in the school, in the home. And so ultimately these Protestant nations which so foolishly and wickedly