

to men not belonging to the Society, anything connected with it, and not to communicate to the members of inferior grades that which is reserved to the superior grades ; considering that in every case they cover themselves with the evil of benevolence and of mutual aid, and that the imprudent and the inexperienced are easily deceived by these appearances of a feigned honesty, we consent that you may show mercy to these prodigal children of whom you deplore the loss, in order that, attracted by this kindness, they may renounce their wicked vows and return to the church, their mother, from which they are separated."

The priest at Rome having found out that the Brazilian members of the church had become cognizant of the fact, that his mercies and his curses were of about equal force, and that neither amounted to a row of pins, and that they would not likely give up a philosophy of good works, pure morality and genuine charity, at once, for the mere sake of an apostolic benediction which does not mean any more than an hearty "farewell," he thought he would not proclaim instantaneous death, for fear the lightning would not strike just at the place and produce just the result he intended, but would set off his tin thunder with a slow match, and added :

"Knowing that we are the Vicar of Him who came to call, not the just, but sinners, we follow the footsteps of our predecessor, Leo XII, and we suspend for the space of a whole year after the present letter shall be made known, the reservation of the censures which have been incurred by those enrolled in these societies, and we consent that they may be absolved from these censures by any confessor approved by the ordinances of the place where they live."

Now this year was up last June, and instead of the Craft who belong to the church there, coming to the "approved confessor" and crying, "what must I do to be saved?" they have simply told the church to mind its own business and they would attend to theirs. They would go to church just whenever they pleased, and partake of its services under the supreme laws and protection of the Empire of Brazil. In defiance of this assumption of one man, like unto themselves, they have exercised the God-given qualities of free manhood and are more numerous to-day, by a hundred-fold, than they were when the apostolic war against them began. Pius, however, having some doubt about the availability of this restrained mercy, and that in all probability they might "laugh in their sleeves," hangs a sword over their heads as follows :

"And if this remedy of clemency can neither remove the guilt from their fatal purpose nor withdraw them from their crime, it is our will that after the space of a year has passed the reserved censures shall immediately come into force—censures which in virtue of our apostolic authority, we confirm, declaring expressly that without exception the adepts of these societies shall not be exempt from the aforesaid spiritual penalties, whether by any pretext of good faith which they may allege, or by the appearance of intrinsic probity which these societies may offer, and consequently every one who adheres to these societies shall incur the peril of ETERNAL DAMNATION."

So it will be seen, that neither the profession, the appearance or the intrinsic and actual merit of Freemasonry shall save their members from eternal damnation ; well, if that is the case, then our South American and other brethren have come to the conclusion to let it be so, preferring rather to go to hell with a crowd of loving brethren, covered with good works, than to stand the chance of going to a heaven picked out by our lately expelled brother, Pius IX, which probably will be filled with a crowd of bigots like himself. He slings damnation around from one end of the Earth to the other with as much ease and indifference as a boy throws sand over a hedge. Distance is nothing to him, for he skips between Earth and Heaven and tells the Almighty who to damn and who to bless, just as he would talk to a hired man, and just as though the Almighty would not obey orders and damn the church societies there who are in sympathy with the Freemasons, he says :

"Moreover, we give you full power to proceed according to the severities of canon law against those religious confraternities which have so shamefully vitiated their character by this impiety, to totally dissolve them, and to establish others which will respond by the nature of their institutions."

Those "religious confraternities" not being a part of the handiwork of God, we suppose Pius thought he had better settle their hash with a dose of "canon law,"—a law that partakes a good deal of the nature of gum elastic—it can be made as mild as a reproof in the United States and as severe as an inquisition in Spain, and in Brazil it can only amount to withdrawing the apostolic charter by which they meet, for the law of the Empire steps in and covers them from personal torture.

After disposing of his own secret societies who had rebelled, he turns again to the Freemasons, and after sending them all to "eternal damnation," "without the benefit of the clergy," he thinks it would look well on paper to let the Almighty have a hand in the matter, so he winds up by saying :

"May it please God that the consideration of the perversity of these societies into