

capture of women and children to be carried into slavery were no longer the main object either of the prince or of the army. The Catholic clergy were admitted into the councils of the nation, and by their salutary influence not only gradually elevated legislation and the morals of the people, but prevented to their utmost useless and bloody wars, and mitigated the cruelty of such as they could not prevent. Wars were carried on for other motives than mere conquest and plunder: they were the instrument by which civilization and with it religion, was spread among the savage tribes in the north central parts of Europe.

France thus at that early age did noble work for the cause of christianity. And has she not done so throughout the ages since? Did not the sword of Charles Martel save christian Europe from being crushed under the iron heel of Mahomet? The names of Charlemagne, of Godfrey de Bouillon, of St. Louis, King of France, are inseparably connected with the extension of the true faith. Moreover the royal house of France is the only one which presents to the world a line of kings who, for over twelve hundred years, have resisted the inroads of heresy. Not for a single reign has a heretic sat on its throne. Henry IV alone was a Protestant for a part of his life, but he became a Catholic as the result of a remarkable controversy held in his presence. The Protestant and the Catholic causes were ably defended by representatives of each denomination. During the course of the discussion Henry asked the Protestant ministers if a person could be saved in the Catholic faith. They answered in the affirmative. He then said that since according to their admission, a person could be saved in the Catholic faith, and also since according to the Catholic doctrine

one could not be saved outside the Catholic church, he would choose the safe side and become a Catholic.

What may we say of the sons of France? The terms French and Catholic are almost synonymous. We are always surprised to meet a French heretic. Heresy does not thrive in their country. Rather than embrace Protestantism they drift into unbelief; but the nation is essentially Catholic, and though godlessness has reigned in France and has not yet been dethroned, it is certain that the true feeling of the nation will ere long assert itself. France will overthrow the mortal enemy that has placed a withering hand on her fair brow. The people will rise and; following the example of their fathers, will become the faithful children of the church. Have they not in their history some of the greatest examples of christian devotion, of christian heroism? It is from France that came those noble souls, who, abandoning everything that was dear to them, friends, home and country, sailed to the then bleak shores of North America, and taught the Indian the way that leads to God. French names are everywhere connected with the teaching of the faith of Jesus-Christ. In China, in Japan, the name of St. Francis Xavier, is a household word among the christians; in Canada, the names of Fathers Brebœuf, Jogues and Lalement have become historical as models of christian missionaries; in Africa; in fact in all parts of the world the devoted sons of France have shown themselves the true soldiers of Christ. May we not then hope that they will yet triumph over their deadly enemy at home, and, following their noble motto *Gesta Dei per Francos*, restore their country to its true position among the catholic nations of the world.

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