

it was but the natural result of things. For fifteen years has infidel philosophy and anti-Christian science, as well as a wicked press, labored to effect the ruin of social order. God and his commandments were mocked at in the newspapers, pamphlets, and so-called scientific works. Religion was everywhere derided, and that which an impious science and a sacrilegious press had sown among the people, at length grew up. The morals of the French became corrupt. Through the highest circles of society, infidelity, malice, and crime were so widely spread that it soon reached the great mass of the people. When France turned away from the Lord of life, from the fountain of temporal and eternal happiness, when France became infidel, the most terrible of all revolutions broke out. A set of wicked men declared themselves rulers, and the whole land became one vast scene of murder, blood, and ruin. All order was destroyed. In open day the most revolting crimes were committed, innocent persons were massacred by the thousand. Neither life, property, nor honor were respected. Everything became a prey to an inhuman mob. Your Majesty then appeared, richly endowed by Almighty God with intellect and strength of will. You overthrew the monster of revolution, and placed it in chains. Your Majesty restored order; and because you knew, sire, that religion is the foundation of all order, that without respect for the divine law no state can exist, you recalled the exiled priests, and commanded the gospel of salvation to be preached to the demoralized French people. Infidel philosophy and infidel science had loosened the bonds of society; they had evoked the spirit of revolution by expelling from the hearts of men, by means of mockery, all Christian morality and faith. Your Majesty acted, therefore, in a politic and prudent manner when you restored the church in France, for she alone is the mistress of order."

"Ah, now I understand your Holiness!" laughingly exclaimed the emperor. "My manner of acting proceeded only from political motives, and not from a sincere desire to do good. I must not expect any reward from heaven, because I have done nothing for God, but only for the emperor. Granted! Yes," continued Napoleon earnestly, "there must be religion. To govern a people without religion is absolutely impossible. I will never permit the Christian morals to be openly ridiculed and despised. No prudent statesman will approve of such a course. He who allows the Christian feelings of a people to be undermined, will one day be the victim