

Church also has been intently watching events in the far East, and anxiously conjecturing what the result may be from a supernatural standpoint.

So dear to St. Francis Xavier on account of their natural good qualities and their piety, the Japanese, steadfast in their faith amidst even the most cruel tortures, preserved the spark of faith, which smouldered unseen beneath the ashes of their churches, for more than two hundred years. As a nation they have abruptly shaken off their antiquated form of government, and are plunging headlong into the vortex of modern progress. Who can foretell what is to betide newly awakening Christianity among these oft recurring upheavals?

The Chinese, less gifted and less attractive than the Japanese, though they have resisted the encroachment of foreign ideas, have, nevertheless, given the Church more than one consolation. Still, the unceasing and vexatious interference of the Mandarins hamper Christianity in its development.

Now, since both these countries are becoming more and more amenable to outside influence, we should beg the Divine Heart to bless them with that true civilization which elevates the soul and leads it heavenwards.

Western nations do indeed something towards the protection of Christianity in China, but they are too slightly imbued with religion to understand and carry out fully their providential mission. It is sad to think that the vices of European merchants and their vile opium trade, more than all else, disastrously counteract the efforts of the missionaries, their fellow-countrymen.

There is need of radical reforms; but the Sacred Heart alone is able to triumph over the selfish policy of men.

As for precocious Japan, vain of its half-acquired school-boy science, and more so of its recent triumphs, it greatly risks lapsing into rationalism, if the Church does