

exercises her divine mission, is an injustice. If Catholic countries cannot vie with those of a different creed in material progress, you cannot attribute this to the Catholic church, since her scope in the first place is to attend to the wants of the soul, to elevate and perfect the reason, to cultivate the tree of virtue, to inspire man with sentiments of love and respect for religion, not to see him in possession of the goods of this world and enjoying bodily comfort, not high up in the state and holding a high social position; all this she considers as secondary compared with man's eternal welfare.

These few explanations of what the church means and in what light she understands and endeavors to promote civilization may suffice to show that she is not its enemy—To material civilization alone, unaided and not guided and directed by the moral, she is the enemy and must necessarily be so, as Christ did not entrust this mission to her, He did not command her to go forth and attend to the material wants of man, nor to aid him in acquiring wealth and abundance, she was called into existence to work for his salvation, to watch over him and protect him from falling into sin. In this sense she has civilized the world. When she came into its midst, she found it godless, and corrupt, God was put aside and man put in his stead, the worship of the one true God, Creator of heaven and earth was no longer recognised and in its place Idolatry, Paganism and selfworship had been set up; the morals of men were dissolute, their dignity they despised and trampled upon and woman was treated as an instrument of libertinage. Such was the state of the world at the first dawn of Christianity. To eradicate the false doctrines disseminated by the prince of darkness and error; to annihilate idolatry and establish the worship of the true God; to crush out of existence sin which had drawn man away from virtue and led him into the basest and vilest of vices; to raise woman to the dignity of which she had been stripped by the passions of men, is her mission, in this manner has the Catholic church undertaken to civilize the world.

The success of her enterprise is known to all, she has fulfilled her mission most faithfully up to the present day. In a few years time she transformed the world and wiped from its face those dark spots which had dragged it so low and were such a disgrace to humanity; she spread in a short time her moralizing influence through every clime, it found its way even into the palaces of the mightiest potentates of the earth,