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pensation of his ministries: and for your sake and on your account they must be holy. Undoubtedly also their virtues and their sanctity constitute your happiness. When God wishes to shew mercy to his people and to save them, He sends them Holy Priests; and when He wishes to display his wrath and to destroy them, He sends them bad and unworthy Priests.

You will understand, D. B. B., that the zeal of the Bishops, with respect to the sanctity of the Clergy, has your happiness for its object; you will acknowledge that you cannot be indifferent, with regard to the paternal instructions they here address to the Priests, since you are to participate in the precious fruits resulting therefrom; and you will join with us in praying the Father of Mercies, that He may send you Holy Priests, filled with grace and knowledge, duly qualified to edify you by the sanctity of their life and the efficacy of their exhortations.

The Church, being a visible Society, certainly enjoys the right of possession and does actually hold temporal property. She possesses her temples, her ministers, her worship, and needs pecuniary resources to maintain them. Property, and all other funds whatsoever, consecrated to this end, appertain to God and essentially constitute the domain of religion. The Church, being sovereign and independent of any and every power on earth, with regard to all that relates to religion, must of necessity enjoy the free administration of her temporal property.

To pretend that the administration of Church-property should be subject to the civil authority and belong to the laity, would be to assert an erroneous doctrine, contrary to the liberty of the Church and destructive of her imprescriptible rights; as if the Church, in the things of God, should be the slave of the temporal power, and the handmaid of those whom she calls her children and who acknowledge her for their mother.

In our time, however, this serious error does not fail to meet with defenders, even amongst Catholics; and it is a fact which a woeful experience has more than once demonstrated, that the minds of our people have been deeply and insidiously imbued with this error, under the guide of certain ideas of independence and democracy, which it is attempted to instil and extend into the domain and province of religion.