

respectable language, he would have done something commendable; even though his view might have been a prejudiced one. But, his "statement" was *deceptive and misleading*. He said "the decree *Ne Temere* does not deal with Protestants, encroaches upon no rights or liberties of theirs. It is expressly declared that this new law has nothing to do with those who are not Catholics." I have here in my hand this famous decree and an exposition of it bearing the imprimatur of a Catholic Archbishop. It is abundantly clear from this book that the Church of Rome claims the right to legislate for *all Christians*; and if Protestants are "not bound" by the new decree, it is because of the pretended grace of the Pope. His claim is that *he might have bound them if he had chosen to do so*. Let me read a little from this wonderful book (this is not "Fox's Book of Martyrs"): "The part of the *Ne Temere* that deals with mixed marriages brings into bold relief the doctrine of the Catholic Church and of Christ, that the origin and fountain source of religious and civil Christian society is a sacramental one—the great Sacrament of Matrimony—and not a mere contract between individuals, dependent upon the whims and fancies of those who make it; not a contract that the State can ratify or annul, but a contract that the hand of God Himself has sealed and signed—a contract on which He has written, 'What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder.'" The Church in terms that cannot be mistaken announces to the world: "I and I alone, know the power that Christ communicated to me, and I now reiterate the declaration to the world that among Christians there is no distinction between the marriage contract and the Sacrament of Matrimony, and I declare that I alone can impose the conditions under which Christians can or cannot receive this sacrament. I declare that the State can no more administer the Sacrament of Matrimony, or impose conditions for its administration, than it can administer any of the other sacraments entrusted to my keeping. I now decree for the universal Church a certain form absolutely essential which will give every marriage publicity. I decree that this form is necessary for Catholics among themselves, and for Catholics who marry non-Catholics, whether the latter are baptized or non-baptized. I decree every other form, whether approved by the State or by any schismatical or heretical sect, to be invalid. I further declare that every such form is as worthless as a form invented by the parties themselves, and as useless as if no form whatever were observed. By Catholics I mean everyone who has ever been received into the Catholic Church. I declare that I have the God-given power to bind refractory