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NO. 1.

What more fitting period for the first issue of a Catholic paper could we have chosen, than during the Octave of that Feast when the Church celebrates with canticles of praise, and every demonstration of joy, the glorious Assumption into Heaven of Her who, on earth, was found not unworthy to be the Mother of the Eternal Son?

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes.

What more appropriate introduction to such a paper than the Address of our Beloved Father, Pius IX., upon the occasion of his triumphant return to the Eternal City—the City of Saints, and of an innumerable army of Martyrs?

As Catholics, let us hope that this glorious event may be an omen of the speedy return of all nations to the bosom of that tender Mother, who ceases not to yearn after her erring children, and would fain gather them together, "even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings."

ALLOCATION OF HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS IX.

MADE IN THE SECRET CONSISTORY, 20TH MAY, 1850.

Venerable Brethren.—If in past ages we have always been able to verify the existence of the admirable Providence with which the most good and great God protects the Catholic cause, it is especially in these latter years that we have seen beaming with a splendor truly extraordinary, the Divine might with which He has promised to assist His Church even to the consummation of the world. The entire world is acquainted with the sad vicissitudes which have so cruelly afflicted us, at the same time that they have condemned us to an exile of more than sixteen months, and every one sees and feels how bitter and deplorable are the conjunctures, in the bosom of which the Prince of Darkness has vented his utmost rage against the Church and this Apostolic See, in taking for the theatre of his fury this City itself—the centre of Catholic truth—and in thus filling with inexpressible grief our soul, yours, and those of all good people. Nor yet is any one ignorant how the just and merciful Lord who strikes and heals again, who kills and raises to life again, who brings down to Hell and rescues from it, has condescended, by the efficacious and evident aid of His bounty, to console us in our tribulation; to receive with propitious and serene countenance the prayers of His Church, to calm the horrible tempest let loose by Hell, to snatch the well beloved people, the subjects of the Church, out of the misfortune and misery under which they were groaning, and to reconduct ourself into this good City, amidst the transports of public joy, and the acclamations of the whole Catholic world. This is why, in addressing you to-day for the first time since our return, we have nothing so much at heart as to render great and immortal thanksgivings to Almighty God for such mercies, and to pay their merited reward of praise to those illustrious nations—to those princes who, excited by God himself, have so well deserved of us, and this Apostolic Chair, by expending their treasures, by having recourse to negotiations and to arms, in order to protect and defend the Temporal Power of the same Chair, and to re-establish it in the midst of the most lively demonstrations of joy, order, and public peace, in this City, and in the Pontifical States.

The tribute of gratitude with which our soul overflows, and of praises which we owe, appertains, in the first place, by just right to our very dear son in Christ, Ferdinand II., King of the Two Sicilies—indeed, by the impulse of his own eminent piety upon the first rumor of our arrival at Gaeta, he hastened to meet us with his august spouse Maria Theresa, supremely happy in giving, to Christ's Vicar upon earth, a striking testimony of his rare piety, of his devotion, and of his filial obedience, according to us a hospitality full of munificence, and during all the time that we remained in his kingdom never ceasing to overwhelm us with good offices of every sort, to which yourselves, venerable brethren, can amply testify. He was desirous, also, when other nations marched to the assistance of the Temporal Power of this Apostolic Chair, to unite his troops with theirs. The illustrious merits of this most pious prince towards us and this Holy See are so profoundly graven in our heart, that nothing will ever be able to efface their happy remembrance. In the next place, it is with much honor, and in witness of our eternal gratitude, that we mention the French nation, so celebrated for the glory of its arms, for its devotion to the Apostolic See—so illustrious, besides, by so many other titles, and of which we have experienced the

very excellent will and kindness on our behalf. For that nation and its illustrious chief, the President of the Republic, anticipating our sad necessities, and those of our Pontificate, and sparing no sacrifice, decreed to send its brave generals and soldiers, who, at the cost of many painful labors, have vindicated and freed this city from the miserable and wretched condition to which it was reduced, and, moreover, have earnestly struggled to attain all the glory of bringing us back. In this praise—in this mark of our gratitude—we wish also wholly to unite our very dear son in Christ, Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, Apostolic King of Hungary, and most illustrious King of Bohemia, who, faithful to the piety of his race, and to his respect for the Chair of Peter, and employing with incomparable promptitude and zeal his much redoubted power and all his cares, to defend the Temporal Power of this Apostolic See, has, by means of his victorious troops, rescued the Pontifical provinces from an unjust and wretched domination—especially those of Emilia, Picenum, and Umbria, and has again subjected them to the legitimate authority of us and of the Holy See. We have also the most powerful inducements to preserve a very grateful remembrance of the services which we have received from our very dear daughter in Christ, Maria Elizabeth, Catholic Queen of Spain, and from her Government; for as you know well, from the moment she became aware of our misfortunes, she desired nothing more earnestly than immediately to urge, with an especial zeal, all Catholic nations to undertake the cause of the common Father of all the faithful, and to send immediately her valiant soldiers to defend the possessions of the Roman Church. Nor can we either, Venerable Brethren, omit to make mention here of the excellent dispositions entertained towards us by other very illustrious princes—by those even whom no bond attaches to the Chair of Peter, and who, not having lent us the assistance of their arms, have not the less devoted themselves to defend and enforce our temporal rights, and those of the Roman Church. Accordingly to these, likewise, we owe and return our well-deserved thanks, and we acknowledge the deepest gratitude for their services. In all this assuredly no one can refuse an especial admiration for the sovereign providence of that God who rules and governs all things with benignity and might, and who, in times so calamitous and troubled as ours, has known how to dispose princes even separated from the Roman Church, to sustain and defend its temporal power—the incontestable right which the Roman Pontiff, by an especial desire of the same Divine Providence, has enjoyed during so long a succession of ages, so that he might be able to exercise in full liberty in the world, for the government of the Universal Church, divinely entrusted to him, the plenitude of the Apostolic authority—a right which is so necessary to enable him to accomplish the duties of the Supreme Pontificate, and to provide for the salvation of the fold of Christ. We desire also to praise and honor all the persons who have come to us, and to this Holy See, as the organs and ministers of these princes and of these nations, and who, in the name of these same princes and of these same nations, have displayed all their good will and all their zeal in defending our person before our withdrawal, and have faithfully assisted us in our exile and our return. These marks, so great and numerous, of singular piety, of generous love, of most devoted submission, of boundless liberality, which we have received from the Catholic world, have so profoundly touched us that we should ardently desire to express in this assembly our particular thanks and commendations, not only to each of the town and cities, but even to each of the numerous faithful who have deserved well of us; but our prescribed limits do not permit it. We cannot, however, pass in silence the illustrious and admirable evidences of faith, of piety, of liberality, which we have received on all sides from our venerable brethren, the Bishops of the Catholic world, and which have been for us the source of the deepest joy. Although involved themselves in the gravest difficulties and dangers, they have, notwithstanding, never ceased, to fulfil their ministry with all sacerdotal zeal and courage, to fight the good fight, to defend heroically, whether by word, by salutary writings, or by episcopal councils, the cause, the rights, the liberty of the Church, and to provide for the salvation of the flock entrusted to their care. We shall also express our profound gratitude towards you, Venerable Brethren, Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, who have lavished upon us so many consolations, and so much assistance; you, who have followed and shared our misfortunes; you, who have opposed an invincible heart to adversity; you, who ready to suffer every thing for the Church of God, to prove yourselves by the practice of all the virtues worthy of the elevated

rank which you fill in that same Church, have neglected nothing to assist us by your counsels and your labors, in conjunctures so critical and perilous. And since, by the great blessing of God, things have so changed that we have been able to recover this Apostolic See amidst the acclamations, not only of this good city, but also of all people, what better can we do than return, in the humility of our heart, assiduous and immortal thanksgivings to the most merciful God, to the Lord of Mercies, and to the most blessed Mother of God, the Immaculate Virgin Mary, to whose all-powerful protection we ascribe the safety which has been granted us.

So far, Venerable Brethren, we have recalled that which has caused us a sweet satisfaction; and, now, urged on by the duty of our Apostolic ministry, we must mention what afflicts our heart with profound disquietude, what fills it with anguish and overwhelms it. You know, Venerable Brethren, what a frightful and inexorable war is carried on between light and darkness, between truth and error, between vice and virtue, between Christ and Belial; and you are not ignorant by what artifices, and by what secret practices men, who are our enemies, labor to attack and trample under foot the things which appertain to our most holy religion; to pluck up by its roots the germ of all Christian virtues; to propagate everywhere an unbridled and impious licentiousness of thought and life; to infect and corrupt with perverse and mortal errors the hearts and minds especially of the inexperienced multitude, and of imprudent youth; to overthrow all rights, human and Divine; and, if such a thing were possible, utterly to destroy the Catholic Church, and overturn the holy Chair of Peter. There is no one that does not see with what numerous and immense misfortunes, with what calamities, the Power of Darkness, to the grief of our soul, has broken into and ravaged the flock of Jesus Christ entrusted to our care, and even human society itself. Therefore, Venerable Brethren, now more than ever ought we, and you in conjunction with us, ardently to apply ourselves, by the intimate union of our minds, by all vigilance, by all zeal, by every effort, by every word, every work, and every example, to raise up a wall of defence before the house of Israel, and fight with intrepidity the battle of the Lord. For ourself, although conscious of our weakness, yet supported by the assistance of God according to the duty of our Supreme Apostolic ministry—"propter Sion non tacuimus, et propter Hierusalem non quiescimus," (Isaiah lxii. 1.) and constantly raising our eyes to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, we shall spare neither care nor counsel, nor labors, to give support to the house, to fortify the temple, to repair the ruins of the Church, and provide for the salvation of all—being disposed and prepared very willingly to offer up our life for the Lord Jesus Christ and His holy Church. And here, addressing ourself to all our venerable brethren, the Bishops of the Catholic world, called to share in our solicitude; whilst warmly congratulating them upon their illustrious labors for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, we exhort them to the end, that in this horrible war against our Divine religion, being themselves unanimous in the bonds and the expression of the same sentiments, fortified in the Lord, and in the power of his might, taking in hand the impregnable shield of faith, and girding on the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, they may arise, as they have already done, to combat fearlessly in support of our most holy religion, and with a zeal becoming every day more ardent, with their pastoral functions, with their constancy and prudence, withstand the efforts of hostile men, repel their attacks, their fury, defend from their snares and violence the flock committed to them, and guide it into the paths of salvation.

Moreover, we ask of our venerable brethren that they will never cease to admonish, exhort, and urge ecclesiastics in particular, that, devoting themselves to prayer, filled with spiritual fervor, and living in piety and sanctity, they may appear in all things as models of good works; and that, inflamed with zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, united together by the strict bond of charity, they may put on the Divine armor, and advance to the conflict with a single heart and a single soul, uniting all their forces; and under the direction of their own Bishop, raising night and day the sacerdotal voice, preaching with ardor to the Christian people the law of God, and the prescriptions of the Church His Spouse. Now let our venerable brethren cease to inculcate upon the ecclesiastics the duty of unweaving to their Christian flocks the stratagems and snares laid for them by deceitful men, and remind the faithful that from sin have always sprung, and do still spring, all the misfortunes and all the calamities which overwhelm nations; and that true and solid happiness con-

sists in the observance of the Christian law. Let them, therefore, exert every effort to the end that all, detesting the evil, and following the good may walk in the way of the commandments of God, and that the misguided, delivered from the darkness of error and the corruption of vice, may be converted to the Lord.

Already, Venerable Brethren, have we communicated to you the great consolation which was afforded us in the midst of so many afflictions, when we were informed of the decrees issued by our very dear son, Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, Apostolic King of Hungary, and King of Bohemia, decrees by which, following the suggestions of his piety, fulfilling our wishes and our requests, and those of our venerable brethren, the Bishops of the vast empire, to the glory of his name, and to the joy of all the good, he, in concert with his ministers, and from the impulses of an ardent heart, has insured to the Catholic Church in his States that liberty, which has been so much desired. An act so great and so worthy of a Catholic prince, entitles that illustrious emperor and king to the praises which we give him in ardently congratulating him in the Lord. We cherish the pleasing hope that that prince, so religious in his zeal for the welfare of the Church, will, by continuing his work and carrying it out to perfection, complete the measure of his deserts.

But whilst we were surrendering ourselves to this consolation, we were unexpectedly afflicted with a poignant anguish of which we keenly feel the weight and severity, at seeing how in another Catholic kingdom the affairs of our most holy Religion are treated, and the sacred rights of the Church, and this Holy See, trampled under foot. You know, Venerable Brethren, that we speak of the subalpine kingdom, where, as all know by private intelligence and public letters, a law has been promulgated contrary to the laws of the Church, and to the solemn treaties made with the Apostolic See; and where, not many days ago, to the great grief of our heart, the illustrious Pontiff of Turin, our venerable brother, Luigi Fransoni, was torn from his residence by an armed force, and taken to the citadel, amidst the mourning of the good inhabitants of the city of Turin, and the whole kingdom. We, meanwhile, as the seriousness of the case and our office, as defender of the rights of the Church, required, lost no time in appealing to that Government, through our Cardinal Secretary of State, against the above mentioned law, and against the injury and violence put in practice in the person of the illustrious Archbishop. In the affliction which fills our heart we are consoled by hoping that these demands will have the desired effect, and we postpone to another Allocation, when the time will seem to us opportune, to treat with you of the ecclesiastical affairs of that kingdom.

We cannot, also, abstain, through our paternal solicitude for the illustrious Belgian nation, from expressing our grief that Catholicism should be now menaced in that kingdom, hitherto so distinguished for its affection towards the Catholic religion. But we hope that the most serene king, and all those who administer the public affairs, considering, in their wisdom, how much the Catholic Church and doctrines contribute to the temporal prosperity and tranquility of the people, will preserve intact the salutary power of the Church, and will consider as their most important duty the task of protecting and defending her sacred prelates and ministers.

And forasmuch as the Apostolic charity in which we embrace all nations and every people in our Lord, so inflames us that there is nothing which we desire with more ardor than that all men should confess the Son of God in the unity of the Faith, we turn with all the affection of our heart towards all those who are separated from us, and entreat them in the Lord to dispel the darkness of error; to open their eyes to the light of truth, and to take refuge in the bosom of the Holy Mother Church, and by that Chair of Peter, upon which Christ has placed the foundation of His Church.

Lastly, Venerable Brethren, let us never cease to address, with all the perseverance of which we are capable, humble and fervent prayers to the most merciful God, from whom all blessings proceed, that, through the merits of His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, of His Most Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Virgin, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the Saints, He will deliver His Holy Church out of all adversities, that He will honor her, and enlarge her amongst all the nations of the earth, by the most striking victories, that He will daily confer upon Ourselves the most abundant gifts of His bounty, that He will dispense the treasures of true happiness amongst the Princes and Nations which have inclined so well to us, and that He will grant to all the world that peace which is so much to be desired.