

ground and with the guidance of the Holy Ghost, recognize the most urgent wants of the Holy Church, and single out either the corrective or the measures of relief for each newly occurring ill.

The Thirteenth Leo forms no exception to this providential rule. Skillfully has he made the diagnosis of the evils from which a self-sufficient age and generation are suffering, and with no less consummate skill has he prescribed the remedies according to the exigency of the case.

“Venerable Brethren,” has he said, addressing the bishops of the Church Universal, “we beseech you, we conjure you to unite your efforts to our own, and to centre all your zeal on the work of eliminating the impure contagion which circulates as a poison in the veins of society and contaminates it.”

Turning to the simple members of the priesthood, he urges them with paternal voice to remain always the worthy *co-operators and dispensers of the mysteries of God*, in union with their bishops; to maintain themselves in the perfection of ecclesiastical discipline and knowledge of the Inspired Writings; to pray with intense ardor and repeated solicitations in keeping with the necessity of the moment and the gravity of the peril; to instruct the multitude, and above all else to exhort them to penance by pious discourses adapted to the comprehension of all; in short, to devote themselves to the religious instruction of the children, and to bring them to form an abiding resolve never to enroll themselves in criminal and dangerous associations.

Then addressing the class of *intelligent, exemplary and well principled laymen*, it is his will that they should with devotedness help on the so noble and so important cause which claims their assistance; that they make of religion the rallying point of resistance against the com-