

IX. was initiated into 'The Sons of Hiram' (*Los Hijos des Hiram*), under the symbolic name of *Savalo*. He became a Knight of the Red Cross 18°. There are existing Lodges at Madrid which he visited during his residence in Spain, and many Brethren who remember these facts. Bro. Soussingéas has shown us a fine portrait of the Pope in full Masonic regalia, with the following inscription underneath in Latin, '*Et excommunicate fratres meos, meos, mea culpa.*' If my Brethren are excommunicated, it is my fault."

The proof, we submit, is complete, and in spite of all the denials given by Roman Catholics, the present occupant of the Vatican is a Mason, and it has been made known that owing to his having excommunicated some of his brethren he has suffered expulsion.

PERSECUTION OF MASONS.

It is not long since a Roman Catholic priest refused Christian burial to a soldier because he died a Mason, and it appears that a system of persecution is being carried out in various parts of the world, by the Catholic priesthood. Happily, however, it is not succeeding so well as they expected, for we hear of the German authorities punishing bishops and other clergy who take upon themselves to prevent their church members exercising the rights they are entitled to; but it is particularly Masons that the priests work against. A recent case is mentioned as occurring in Brazil, the Bishop of Olinda having interdicted various semi-religious and other societies because they had not expelled all the Freemasons among them. The Emperor, who is an enlightened man, ordered the interdicts to be removed, and the Bishop refusing to do so, at the same time publishing without authority a brief from the Pope, and interdicting twelve more brotherhoods, he was prosecuted before the Supreme Tribunal of Justice, found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment for four years. Thus the persecuter received his deserts, and it would be well if the action of Brazil were imitated elsewhere.

There is really no conflict between Masonry and Catholicity, for the issue is with the members and the Church. In that light the affair is serious, and there is no telling where the conflict may end. In so far as the Masonic fraternity are concerned, they care little for these attempted persecutions, it is the ultimate effect that is to be dreaded. Nothing that the Roman priesthood can do will have the effect of injuring Freemasonry, but it may do harm in other ways, and for that reason we regret there is such a manifest desire on the part of the Roman Catholic Church to interfere in matters they know nothing about. It is clear beyond peradventure that the Catholic priesthood know not what they are doing, or they would not be so silly as to seek for the suppression of Masonry, as they must be aware that the thing is utterly impossible. All that has been done thus far proves of no avail, and it is about time the priests turned their attention to something else. There is no use in their fighting against what they cannot conquer, and it were well that they understood it by this time.

MASONRY IN IRELAND.

THE London *Freemason* is severe on the Grand Lodge of Ireland, for refusing to recognize it. The alleged ground of objection is that no formal application has been made, but the *Freemason* says it lies a little deeper, and is founded on an entirely different foundation, there being an opposition to all reporting, and practically to all printing of