

The credit of the Church is clearly at stake, in reference to her Lord, to the world for which He died, to the work He has entrusted to her and to the laymen of other religious communions with whom her laymen have agreed to co-operate. These other religious communions have almost everywhere assumed their share of the burden and are making strenuous and successful efforts to raise the amount that falls to their lot. Shall it be said that the Church alone lagged behind and failed to do her duty? "To whom much has been given from them shall much be required." We justly claim the possession of certain privileges which we hold in trust for the world. Ours is a Church that is complete in its organization and equipment and that reaches back in unbroken history to primitive and apostolic times, and we go back with confidence to primitive and apostolic precedents for a justification of our doctrines and polity. Shall we be lacking only in the primitive and apostolic spirit? that spirit that led the founders of Christianity to consecrate life and substance without reserve to God for the evangelization of the world. *Noblesse oblige*. Let us rather commend the distinctive features of our Church to them that are without, not by mere empty words and boasts, but in deed and in truth, by a manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit, by greater devotion to Christ our Master, by greater obedience to His commands, by greater love for His gospel and for the souls of men for whom He died, by a more far-reaching vision of and a higher ambition for the glory of His Name, the spread of His Spiritual Kingdom and the true Catholicity of His Church Militant here on earth, and by taking a foremost place among those of every name who are striving in prayer and effort for the evangelization of the world.