

the speaker himself had read his writings, he could not but come to the same conclusion, and that he was shamming himself on the Pope and the Church. Bossuet had always spoken against the tenets of the Church, and especially that of the deification of a man. It was the same with Copernicus and Pascal, neither of whom were Roman Catholics. Montalembert, who wrote the life of St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, related that her confessor, when she was only 20 years of age, and a widow, was accustomed to beat her with his own hands, or a stick or whip, after her confession, until her robes were covered with blood. It was the custom of that time to beat young girls; we never read that they beat men (laughter). Boys and girls in the schools were not allowed to think except what their teachers did. What was the secret why the Roman Catholic nations are going down, and why the Protestants nations are constantly rising? All the philosophers of France attributed its miserable condition to the false education its youth received from the Priests and nuns. The same could be said with regard to Italy, and the first thing that nation did when she wished to raise herself and be free, was to take away the education of the people from the hands of the Jesuits, and place it in the hands of honest men.

When you go to see these Nuns they are so sweet and gentle you think it is impossible to find anything better, and they promise you that they will not interfere with your religion; and you come back to your minister and say there is no danger with our religion, and when you go away they laugh at you and call you an ass. They look upon protestantism as a negative and no religion, it is such an easy thing to promise not to interfere with your religion, when you have none! But when they say you have no religion I think they say a great truth, for Protestants, with very few exceptions, who send their children into these places have no more religion than their dogs. When you take your child into the Nuns you know about as much about them as you do about the man in the moon. I don't like to say anything against the Nuns of this city, but I must say the truth. Not long ago a lady, who is still living, and belongs to the noblest families of Italy, was entrapped into a Nunnery in Naples, went to the Bishop and said to him, I have been entrapped into your Nunnery and your Nunnery is nothing better than a house of prostitution! I have to fight battles to keep my honour in these institutions against your Priests, and now I want you to give me my release from my vows. The arch Bishop said, no! you must be kept there! She said if you don't let me out I will break the door; and the next day the policeman came and took her away, and for two years she was kept in prison, and her Brothers went to the Pope and said, if you don't give release to our sister we will raise such a cry as will make you shake, and he had to release her and she wrote a book, which I hold here in my hands, on what she saw in Nunneries, the consequence is that Nunneries are suppressed in Naples, and almost everywhere in Italy. The education given by the Nuns is