

arts and the home of learning, and attracting to itself the attention and the wonder of the whole world. In presence of the proofs of these great facts, afforded for ever by the monuments of history, we can easily understand that nothing but extreme malice and unworthy calumny, intended to deceive mankind, could ever have caused it to be said or written that this Apostolic See was an obstacle to the culture and the happiness of Italy.

If, then, all the hopes of Italy and of the entire world are based on a force so favourable to the well-being and usefulness of all under the authority of the Apostolic See, and under the fast bond which unites all the faithful to the Roman Pontiff, We are aware that We ought to have nothing so much at heart as to maintain : tact and in its integrity the dignity of the Chair of Peter, and to draw more closely together the members and the head—the sons and the father.

Therefore it is that in order to maintain above all, and to the best of Our power, the rights and freedom of the Holy See, We shall never cease to use every effort to preserve the obedience due to Our authority ; to remove the obstacles which interfere with the free exercise of Our ministry and Our power, and to obtain the reinstatement of that position of affairs in which the dictates of Divine wisdom had formerly placed the Roman Pontiffs. And it is neither by a passion for ambition nor a desire for domination, Venerable Brethren, that We seek this restitution, but solely on account of the duties of Our charge, and by the terms of the oath which binds Us. In addition, We are actuated not only by the consideration that the Temporal Power is necessary to Us, in order to defend and protect the full freedom of the Spiritual Power, but also because it is clearly shown that in the Sovereign Temporality of the Holy See is involved the public well-being and the safety of human society. Consequently, in virtue of the duties of Our mission, which obliges Us to defend the privileges of the Holy Church, when the Temporal Power of the Apostolic See is in question, We cannot avoid renewing and confirming in these letters all the protestations and declarations that