

and the contrasted ideas of nation-making, we may not forget that in this strife for the mastery these opposing forces have made our speech English, our political institutions those of constitutional liberty, and our religion that of the English-speaking peoples rather than that of Spain or France or Rome. It is the knowledge of these facts of our origin, our history, our present condition that compels us, as we contrast our greatness and our glory with that of Mexico and the South American republics, which represent the Latin civilization, the Latin ideas of freedom and the Latin faith, to distrust the efforts of an alien communion, recognizing as its earthly head a foreign potentate, and taking its very dogmas at the bidding of a foreign power, to reverse the decision of these four centuries of struggle for the possession of our continent. The successes of these years of conflict must not be imperiled, must not be lost. We recognize with full sympathy and profound respect the evidences so apparent at this very time of the wish and purpose of the most intelligent and most astute of the Roman hierarchy to Americanize so far as they may the Roman Church. We note with interest the proffered alliance of the Roman pontiff with democracy in the old world, and we see evidences of the same willingness to bring the papacy into conformity, so far as is possible, with Amer-