

Thus may you hear hostile voices decrying the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith, and ascribing it to a political end. Have they not represented its collectors as legions ready to move its offerings as treasures to defray the expense of formidable expeditions, and its whole scheme as a black design to cause the nations to relapse to barbarism, under the pretence of restoring men to the original dignity of their nature, created to the image of God? But the heart of a disciple of Jesus Christ is not troubled or dismayed when calumniated. The employment of the funds confided to it to spread the fire which the Saviour has come to bring into the world, can be easily ascertained. Every year an exact statement of it is published; the sum given to each mission is clearly specified; the names of these missions and of their chiefs is a secret to no one. Ask the confessors who are in chains, whether their brethren in France have remembered their captivity? Ask the orphans and the sick in North America, whether it be true that the daughters of St. Vincent of Paul have come to take care of their youth, or to console their bed of grief? Ask all these rising churches, whether the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith has not been their Providence for many years, whether it has not endowed them with flourishing communities and superb temples? Ask the magistrates of the United States, from what part these angels of consolation have come to attend the sick of all communions, and whose numbers increase in the same proportion as the terror augments? Ask them, from whence have come these men who show so much contempt for danger and such an inclination to die, and you will be convinced that the sums collected by the Institution for the Propagation of the Faith have reached their destination since they have produced such wonders." Then, turning to his clergy, the prelate continues: "It is to you, ministers of the gospel, that it has been given to comprehend all the excellence of this institution; you ought to be its firmest supporters, and its most ardent apologists. Are not you sent as the redeemer to snatch these infidel souls from the power of darkness, and to lead them into the kingdom of the beloved Son of God? On the day of your ordination, were not you also made fathers of men? And ought you not to go in search of them, even to the depths of the gulph of iniquity in which they hide themselves? If the grace of the imposition of hands be not weakened in you, can you throw a glance at those countries, white for the harvest, where there are so few labourers, and such an abundant crop to reap, and not feel the sacerdotal spirit awakened in your heart? Millions of supplicating hands raised from all parts of the world, are asking for the light of faith, and peace of conscience, and we, the propagators, born of this faith and the dispensers of this peace, shall we be deaf to these supplications which caused the Son of God to come down upon earth? It will not be so, shepherds of souls: you will recommend to the charity and Catholic zeal of *your* flocks the spiritual wants of the flocks which wander here and there without shepherds, and which are daily decimated by the devouring teeth of ravenous wolves. If this zeal could grow cold, you would revive it by your frequent exhortations; and if this charity could be wearied, you would reanimate it by your example." Then, turning to the poor, the bishop reminds them that the