

never was removed elsewhere, although there sometimes seemed to be the most urgent reasons for such a step. Why did the Popes remain in Rome during those ten fierce persecutions, during which to be Pope meant certain martyrdom? Again, when the Pope resided at Avignon, why did they not give up the Roman See and become Bishops of Avignon? Clearly, because that would amount to a resignation of the Papacy.

In confirmation of all this, Pope Pius IX condemned a proposition stating that the Primacy could be taken from the Roman Bishop and See, and conferred upon another, at least by the sentence of a general council.

Protestants do not understand how we can presume to claim such unchangeableness, for the institutions of

our Church, whilst they are suffering constant changes. They scoff at the idea that we should claim for our Church exemption from that lot which is common to all other institutions on this earth—eventual dissolution. But notwithstanding all their scoffs, the fact remains. What is there that can compare with that unbroken line of Roman Pontiffs? "The republic of Venice was very old, but," says Macaulay, "the republic of Venice is gone and the Papacy remains. The Papacy remains, not in decay, not a mere antique; but full of life and youthful vigor." As Christ once taught the people from Peter's ship, pushed off a little from the shore, so He now continues to teach the world from Peter's Chair removed a little way from earthly mutability.

THE PHILIPPINES.

BY REV. F. X. MCGOWAN, O.S.A.



IN these latter days of the XIXth century, Spain—that time-honored and ancient Catholic country—whose heart, stout as the unruven oak of the forest, has never ceased to beat in unison with the faith of Mother Church, has been severely tried in the crucible of suffering and rebellion. And more than this, she has been held up to the scorn and contempt of a wide world, simply because she has endeavored to quell revolt and trouble in her colonial possessions and to maintain her legitimate

sovereignty over them. There is no doubt that calumny and exaggeration have been employed to place Spain in a false position before the American public, and that most lying and *outré* accounts of her acts and methods of government have been spread broadcast, through the medium of the press, to evoke a spirit of opposition and hatred against her. We would be pleased to be assured that the reproach and criticism visited on the Spanish people and their rules were the offspring and outcome of the spirit of truth, but we are, on the contrary, inclined to believe that, in all this harrowing and contemptuous arraignment of Spanish authority and Spanish tyranny, there lurks a trace of the