

Majesty on high, He is still present with His people on earth, whom He governs by His Word, Providence and Spirit. We cannot, therefore, put any creature in his place, or render to a man the obedience which is due to Christ alone.

As the Church of Rome excommunicates all those who profess the principles above enumerated; as we regard these principles to be of vital importance, and intend to assert them more earnestly than ever; as God appears to have given His seal and sanction to these principles by making the countries where they are held the leaders in civilization—the most eminent for liberty, order, intelligence, and all forms of private and social prosperity—it is evident that the barrier between us and you is, at present, insurmountable.

Although this letter is not intended to be either objurgatory, or controversial, it is known to all the world that there are doctrines and usages of the Church over which you preside which Protestants believe to be not only unscriptural, but contrary to the faith and practice of the early Church. Some of these doctrines and usages are the following, viz: The doctrine of transubstantiation and the sacrifice of the mass; the adoration of the host; the power of judicial absolution (which places the salvation of the people in the hands of the priests); the doctrine of the grace of orders, that is, that supernatural power and influence are conferred in ordination by the imposition of

hands; the doctrine of purgatory; the worship of the Virgin Mary; the invocation of saints; the worship of images; the doctrine of reserve and of implicit faith, and the consequent withholding the scriptures from the people, &c.

So long as the profession of such doctrines and submission to such usages are required, it is obvious that there is an impassable gulf between us and the church by which such demands are made.

While loyalty to Christ; obedience to the Holy Scriptures; consistent respect for the early councils of the Church, and the firm belief that pure "religion is the foundation of all human society," compel us to withdraw from fellowship with the Church of Rome; we, nevertheless, desire to live in charity with all men. We love all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. We cordially recognize as Christian brethren all who worship, trust, and serve Him as their God and Saviour according to the inspired Word. And we hope to be united in heaven with all who unite with us on earth, in saying, "Unto Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."—Rev. i. 56.

Signed in behalf of the two General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

M. W. JACOBUS,

PH. H. FOWLER,

*Moderators.*

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A TAX on bachelors from thirty years old is proposed in Paris.