

matter of course? I fear it must be admitted with all humility, that we, the clergy, are much to blame for neglecting to put forth what the will of God is in this respect. It is true, that the Church authority, like the civil, has often been abused; but unless we are prepared to admit that the abuse of God's counsel nullifies God's counsel itself, we have no right "to put it under the bushel." Should we not rather, both clergy and laity, learn to make a better use of it?

Time will not permit my quoting many passages of scripture. I will only make use of two most prominently applicable, the one to the civil government of the world, the other to the government of the Church. The one says: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake;" and the other says: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Now, we can all see that obedience is required of us in both cases. Nobody will deny this as respects the state. We know that without obedience to "the powers that be," there can be no peace, no safety either for life or for property. We have lately seen this most powerfully exemplified in the case of unhappy Paris. Confusion, anarchy, and misery, are the consequences of rebellion. It is like the sin of witchcraft. It is deceitful and deceiving. Only fancy what would soon become of us all if every man among us were to undertake to put his own construction upon the laws of the State, and would refuse to submit to the courts of justice appointed to explain those laws? And what if every one put his own different views in opposition to, not only the courts, but every one else? Could a greater Babel confusion be imagined? Happily it is not often that such is the case with respect to temporal things. There is usually common sense enough left for self-preservation in a worldly point of view. But how is it with respect to religion? How is it as regards the church, or the laws of the Church of God? Does not the Lord call His church a kingdom? And did He not give that kingdom governors and laws, and power to make and enact laws? And are the laws of the king-