

to time the unanimity of a concert which has continued for two centuries. This universal concord, after a struggle so long and so determined, is a grand and most eloquent testimony in favor of the Immaculate Conception. Yet God had still higher manifestations in store for it. The nineteenth century was to form, as it were, an apogee of glory for this holy belief. Our own age has seen Rome covering it more than ever with the majesty of its approbation. In our days we hear Catholic voices sing in the Litany: *Queen conceived without sin, pray for us*. What do I say? Even amid the pomp of the Sacrifice, is it not given us to hear that word which was a sign of contradiction, resounding like the echo of an unanimous belief, and going up to heaven with the people's prayer?

What was wanting to complete the triumph? Only to see the adversaries themselves coming over in a spirit of love and devotion to the cause they had so long struggled against. Well! this completion of success God reserved for this age. The unspotted Virgin now beholds the most sturdy opponents of her privilege glorying in laying down their arms at her feet as a magnificent trophy of her victory. And was not the general of that valiant militia himself seen, on the 10th of December, 1843, soliciting in Rome, for his brethren, the privilege of celebrating, *juxta proprium ritum*, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and to chant