

"If I were an agent of sedition, an incendiary or an assassin you would offer me an amnesty. If I were arrived from Noumea you would escort me in triumph, or you would, at least, shield me with your protection. I have done no evil to anyone: on the contrary I have not ceased so serve my country, and still you treat me as an outlaw. You drag me from my home and cast me into the street.

"I protest against this criminal application of so-called existing laws, the reality of which is disputed by the French magistracy.

"I protest against this odious persecution to which the Church is being submitted; a persecution of which the authors, whoever they may be, fall, *ipso facto*, under the ban of major excommunication.

"In conclusion, I protest against an outrage that violates in my person the indispensable liberties of all citizens; an outrage which, because it shakes the foundation of our social condition and of the public peace, is applauded only by the rabble, whilst it is looked upon with indignation by every, Christian and by all honest people both in France and throughout the entire world.

"I will not budge from here until compelled by violence."

Very shortly afterwards, probably owing, in great measure, to Father Soullier's prudent exertions, the Oblates and other exiled members of religious bodies were readmitted into France and allowed to resume possession of their former homes.

As Assistant-General, Father Soullier labored unsparingly for the spiritual and temporal advancement of his Order. Through his able advocacy in 1883, the Oblates were intrusted with the important archdiocese of Columbo, in the island of

Ceylon. On several occasions he was sent as Visitor to provinces of the Order in different parts of the world. In that capacity he travelled through Canada, the United States, Africa and Ceylon, as well as the various countries of Europe. He came to Canada as Visitor in 1876 and again in 1884.

In the month of October, 1892, Very Rev. Joseph Fabre, second Superior General of the Oblates, passed away from earth to the possession of a well merited crown, and Rev. Father Soullier became Vicar General. On the eleventh of the following May his brethren in religion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, gave him the most convincing proof of their confidence and esteem. They placed him at the helm of their ship, which since then has been piloted with a skill that proves undeniably the heaven-inspired wisdom of their choice.

The time of Father Soullier's administration as Superior General was comparatively short, still, throughout its four year's duration, one could easily notice that a more than ordinarily steady hand was guiding the destinies of the Oblate Congregation. Within that brief period there was established in Germany a new province of the Order, which, on the fair banks of the Rhine, promises to surpass even the rapid strides it has made in other lands. Within the same space of time the Order has taken a firm footing upon the only continent where it had not previously been established. Australia, the isolated land of the southern cross, has lately received with joy a band of Irish Oblates, and upon its western coast, has assigned them a field of labor.

Not alone amongst the members of his own Order were Father Soullier