

Venerable Head of the Church continues the mild and paternal government of his predecessors—his people are happy, whilst his late subjects, wrested from him by his enemies, already groan under a heavy taxation, and see their children conscripted to fill up the armies of the so called King of Italy.

It is said that the Pope being Head of the Church should not be a temporal sovereign. This objection cannot be urged by those who have to swear to the supremacy of the Queen of England both in Church and State.

There is no prince in Europe whose title is more legitimate or more ancient than that of His Holiness the Pope. We may trace his temporal possessions back to the time when the early Christians sold their houses and lands, and brought the price of the things they sold and laid it down at the feet of the Apostles. "And distribution was made to everyone according as he had need." [Acts.] For nineteen centuries these pious donations have poured in from all parts of the known world to the treasury of the successor of St. Peter.

We claim, therefore, for the Holy Father the continuance of the free and indisputable right enjoyed by his predecessors in the administration of the laws and government of the States of the Church. And being thus free and independent in his own States he can exercise his spiritual jurisdiction over the Catholic Nations and peoples of the earth, and be accessible to them.

In all temporal monarchies a freedom of action is accorded the sovereigns, by which they can exercise their royal prerogatives throughout the sphere of their respective dominions; and it would be a crime to deprive the duly constituted authority of its just right. But as the Sovereign Pontiff is spiritual ruler of the Catholic world,—of an empire embracing the vast number of 200,000,000 of souls, scattered throughout the whole world, it is right, and even necessary, that, in his spiritual domain, a similar freedom of action should be accorded him; and, if it be unlawful to deprive a reigning prince of any part of his rightful inheritance, we maintain that it can neither be lawful nor constitutional to deprive the Holy Father of any part of his temporal power, or of the territory that he legally and justly holds in trust for the Church.

Nevertheless, it is manifest to the world that armed bands of freebooters and ruthless men, aided by some governments and abetted by others, invade the hallowed soil of the Pontifical territory, cruelly put to the sword unoffending citizens, and thirst with the