respect for religion. The same Pontiff

ENCYCLICAL LETTER

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE PIUS X.

TO THE

FRENCH, CARDINALS, ARCH-BISHOPS, BISHOPS, CLERGY AND PEOPLE.

(Special Translation of the "Catholic) inize any form of religious worship, it Times")

Venerable brethren and well beloved for man's Creator is also the Founder son, health and the Apostolic Bene-

Our soul is full of painful anxiety and our heart is penetrated by anguish when We turn to you in thought. How could it be otherwise on the day after the promulgation of the law which by breaking violently the secular bonds that bound your nation to the Apostolic See, creates for the Catholic Church in France a situation unworthy of her and for ever to be deplored? Undoubtedly an event of the gravest kind; an event which all fair minds must regret, for it is as baleful to civil society as to religion; but an event which could not surprise anyone who has paid attention to

The Religious Policy Pursued in France

Brethren, it must certainly have been neither a novelty nor a surprise, witnesses as you have been of the attacks so numerous and so formidable made one after another by the public authority upon religion. You have seen the sanctity and stability of Christian marriage violated by legislative enactments in formal contradiction to them; the schools and hospitals laicised; clerics hurried away from their studies and from ecclesiastical discipline to be subjected to military service; the religious Congregations dispersed and despoiled, and their members for the most part reduced to extreme destitution. Other legal measures, with all of which you are acquainted, followed: the law has been abrogated which ordered public prayers at the beginning of each Parliamentary Session and at the reopening of the courts; the signs of mourning traditional in the Navy on Good Friday have been done away with; the religious character has been effaced from the judicial oath; every act or emblem in any way reminding men of religion has been

Banished from the Courts

the schools, the Army, the Navy-in a word, from all the public institutions. These measures and others which, explained several times and splendidly little by little, separated the Church from the State were only landmarks set up for the purpose of reaching complete and official separation; their promoters themselves have not hesitated to acknowledge this openly and often. The Apostolic See, on the contrary, has left nothing undone to avert so great a calamity. Whilst, on the one hand, it ceased not to warn those who were at the head of French affairs and to beg of them on various occasions to weigh well the magnitude of the evils which their policy of separation would unfailingly bring about; on the other it multiplied the striking testimonies of its complacent affection towards France. We had therefore a right to hope from

The Ties of Gratitude

which ought to exist that We would be able to prevent these politicians from going down the incline and to lead them to a renunciation of their projects. But attention, good offices and efforts both on Our part and on that of Our predecessor all remained without result. And the violence of the enemies of religion succeeded in the end in what they had long been aiming at, to the detriment of your rights as a Catholic nation and of all that prudent thinkers could desire. Accordingly in an hour so grave for the Church, and conscious of Our Apostolic responsibilities, We deem it Our duty to raise Our voice and to lay open Our soul to you, Venerable Brethren, to your clergy, and to your and blamable, how much it is to be nicious error, to maintain that it is on the part of this Apostolic See; society of men, in whose bosom are



is, first of all.

Seriously Offensive to God

of human societies, and He preserves them in being, just as He sustains us. We owe Him, then, the honor not only of private, but also of public and social worship. Moreover, this contention is a clear negation of the supernatural order. It limits the action of the State solely to the pursuit of public prosperity during this life, which is only the proximate reason for the existence of . political societies, and it does not occupy itself at all with their ultimate reason -the eternal happiness of man when this life is over-treating it as something foreign to itself. And yet, the present order of things here below being subordinate to the attainment of this supreme and absolute good, the civil power should not only place no obstacle in the way of that attainment, but of late years. To you, Venerable should aid us in it. This contention also overthrows

two societies. These two societiesbetween Church and State and from will become acute on both sides; the versally observed by all countries that frame work of the episcopate and the idea of truth will thereby be disturbed and souls will be filled with great anxiety. Finally, this contention inflicts serious damage on civil society itself, for it cannot prosper or last long when religion has not its place in it-religion the supreme ruler and sovereign mistress

The Rights and Duties of Man are in question. The sovereign Pontiffs ation of Church and State. what should be the relations between the two societies. Between them, he said, "there should necessarily be a wise union, a union which may justly be compared to that between the soul and body: "Quaedam intercedat necesse est ordinata colligatio (inter illas), quae quidem coniunctioni non immerito comparatur, per quam anima et corpus in homine copulantur.' He adds: "Human societies cannot, without becoming criminal, conduct themselves as if God did not exist, or refuse to concern themselves about religion, as if it were an affair that was foreign to them and that could be of no service. . . As to the Church, which has God Himself for its Author, to exclude it from the active life of the nation, the laws, the education of the young, and domestic society, is to be guilty of a great and pernicious error. 'Civitates non possunt, citra scelus, gerere se tanquam si Deus omnino non esset, aut curam religionis velut alienam nihilque profuturam abiicere. . Ecclesiam vero quam Deus ipse constituit, ab actione vitae excludere, a legi-

commits An Act Eminently Baleful

bus, ab institutione adolescentium, a

societate domestica, magnus et pernici-

osus est error." (Encyclical Letter,

"Immortale Dei," 1 Nov., 1885). If

in separating itself from the Church, a

Christian State, of whatever kind,

people—to all of you, whom We have deplored that France has entered on ever treated with special tenderness, this path, when of all nations it ought dition of the Fathers confirms the teachbut when at this moment, as is fitting, to be the last to do so-France, which ing, that the Church is the mystic body We love more tenderly than ever. It in the course of ages has been the object of Christ, a body ruled by the pastors is an absolutely false contention, a per- of such a great and special predilection and doctors (Ephes. iv, 11, etc.)—a necessary to separate the State from France, whose fortune and glory have leaders having full and perfect power the Church. For, based on the prin- always been intimately associated with to govern, teach and judge (Matt. xxviii, ciple that the State should not recog- the practice of Christian morals and [18-20; xvi, 18-19; xviii, 17; Tit. ii, 15;

Leo XIII. rightly said: "France should not forget that its Providential destiny has united it to the Holy See by bonds too close and too old to be ever willingly broken. From this union came forth its true greatness and its purest glory. . To interfere with this traditional union would be to deprive the nation itself of a part of its moral strength and of its high influence in the world" (Allocution to the French pilgrims, 13th April, 1888). The bonds by which this union was consecrated should have been all the more inviolable, inasmuch as they were fortified by the sworn faith of treaties. The Concordat arranged between the Sovereign Pontiff and the French Government, like, for that matter, all treaties concluded between States, was a bilateral contract binding on both sides. The Roman Pontiff on the one hand, and the head of the French nation on the other, solemnly bound themselves, on their own behalf and for their successors, to maintain inviolate the pact that they signed.

Scrupulous Fidelity

As a result the Concordat was governed

by the rule of all international treaties,

that is to say, the right of nations, and

could not at all be annulled on the ground

that only one party had entered into the

contract. The Holy See has always

observed with

the engagements to which it has subscribed, and it has at all times demanded that the State should give proof of equal fidelity. That is a truth which no impartial judge can deny. But, to-day the State abrogates by its authorty alone, the solemn agreement that it signed. It violates its sworn faith. And to break with the Church, to free itself from its friendship, stopping at nothing, it does not shrink from inflicting on the Apostolic See the outrage which results from that violation of the The Order Wisely Established by God right of nations, nor from giving a shock in the world-an order which requires to the social and political order, since a harmonious agreement between the nothing so much concerns nations for the security, on each side, of their mututhe religious and the civil-have the al relations as an inviolable fidelity in same subjects, although each of them the sacred respect for treaties. The the pastors. St. Cyprian, martyr, exexercises its authority over them in its greatness of the injury done to the presses this truth in an admirable manown sphere. It necessarily follows that Apostolic See through the abrogation there are many matters which the two of the Concordat by one party is further precepts regulating the episcopal digshould look upon as belonging to both increased—and in a special manner their domains. Let harmony cease when we consider the method in which the State has effected the abrogation. these matters of common jurisdiction It is a principle admitted without diseasily arise germs of differences which cussion in the law of nations and uni-

The Rupture of a Treaty

should be notified beforehand and regularly, in a clear and explicit manner, to given to it on the subject. So that the tur et dicit Petro: Ego dico tibi, quia French Government hesitated not to tu es Petrus, etc. . . Inde per have therefore never ceased, according fail towards the Apostolic See in the temporum et successionum vices Episcoto times and circumstances, to refute ordinary respect and courtesy which porum ordinatio et Ecclesiae ratio deand condemn the doctrine of the separ- nations never neglect even in the case currit, ut Ecclesia super Episcopos conof the smallest States. And its repre Our illustrious predecessor, Leo XIII., sentatives—the representatives of a Catholic nation-feared not to treat with contempt the dignity and power of the Pontiff, Supreme Head of the Church, when they should have had for that power respect superior to that which all other political powers inspire -respect which should have been all the greater inasmuch as that power has, on the one hand, to do with the eternal welfare of souls, and on the other, extends everywhere. If we now examine in itself the law which has been promulgated, we find in it a fresh cause for still more energetically complaining. Since the State in

Breaking the Ties of the Concordat

separated itself from the Church, it should, as a natural consequence, have left it its independence and permitted it to enjoy a common right in the liberty which it pretended to grant it. But this is far from being the case. For We discover in the law several exceptional provisions which, being odiously restrictive, place the Church under the domination of the civil power. As for Ourselves, it has been to Us a bitter sorrow to see the State thus encroaching upon what should be the exclusive domain of the ecclesiastical power; and We are all the more grieved because, disregarding equity and justice, it has created for the Church of France a situation hard, harassing, and oppressive in respect to the most sacred rights. The provisions of the new law are contrary to the constitution according to which the Church was founded by Jesus Christ. The Scripture teaches us, and the tra-

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II. Cor., x, 6; xiii, 10, etc.). It follows that the Church is by its essence an Dr. J. R. DAVIDSON, M.D. unequal society, that is to say, a society comprising two categories of persons:

The Pastors and the Flock,

those who occupy a rank in the different degrees of the Hierarchy, and the multitude of the Faithful. And these categories are so distinct that in the pastoral body alone reside the right and authority necessary to guide and direct all the members toward the end for which society exists; as to the multitude its only duty is to allow itself to be led, and, as a faithful flock, to follow ner when he writes: "Our Lord, Whose nity and the mode of life of His Church we ought to revere and observe, says in the Gospel, addressing Peter: 'Ego dico tibi tu es Petrus,' etc. So through the vicissitudes of ages and events the constitution of the Church are discernible in such a manner that

"The Church Rests on the Bishops,

the other contracting party by the and that all its active life is governed party which intends to repudiate the by them." "Dominus Noster, cuius treaty. Now, not only was no inti- praecepta metuere et servare debemus mation of this kind made to the Holy Episcopi honorem et Ecclesiae suae See, but no notification whatsoever was rationem disponens, in Evangelio loqui-

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