

## The Catholic Church and the French Revolution.

HE position of the Catholic Church today in France, a supposedly Catholic country, seems unnatural to the foreigner who knows it. But comparatively few people outside of France know the true state of the Church,, the disabilities of Catholics or the godlessness of the schools in that unhappy country. This widespread ignorance is largely due to the sympathies of the English and American press with the Masonic government. This secret society now in power is striving strenuously to decatholicize or dechristianize (for in this case the words are synonymous) France. Their chief enemy in this nefarious work is the Catholic Church and their whole energies are devoted to crushing her. Her orders have been driven out, her Bishops' houses been looted and no man can hold a government position who is even suspected of following her. For the cause of this state of affairs we must go back to the Revolution and beyond it.

The Catholic Church in France was anterior to the state. Her missionaries had long converted the people and her monks founded monasteries before she crowned Clovis, king of France. And what was more natural after this than that the Church should possess power and privilege under this regime?

As the Church has adapted herself to every age, so she used the Feudal system and became part of it. Her bishops and Abbots were on the same footing with the great lords and princes. They had for fiefs the towns and villages which had grown up around the monasteries and convents. These domains were constantly added to and other privileges obtained, until in the eighteenth century the Church owned two fifths of the land in France and had forty millions of revenue.

Under the Feudal system the nobles and clergy received revenues from the people for duties rendered, such as protection of their rights. But the king had gradually usurped these powers and duties and left them their privileges one of which was exemption from taxation. The people then began to hate the Feudal System as a stronghold of privilege and the Church as part of the Feudal System.