

correcting him and completing him and making him the pedagogue of faith; then he interwove his doctrine in a resumé of the whole of Christian doctrine as contained in the Scriptures, the Councils and the Fathers, harmonising it and showing its complete conformity to right reason. No wonder that Bucer, the heresiarch said in his disgust. "Take away Thomas and I shall destroy the Church." A sacrilegious pretention, no doubt, for the Church depends on no one man, but indicative of the fact that the works of Thomas constitute an arsenal for the defenders of dogma.

The value of the saint's work has been solemnly recognized. The Ecumenical Council of Trent placed his *Summa* open on the altar beside the scripture and the decrees of the Supreme Pontiffs. In our own day, Leo XIII, that gifted Pope, that light from heaven yet brilliant, who seems to have been gifted with some of the intuitions of St. Thomas, has named him patron of Catholic education. He gives for reason that he is the most perfect model Catholics can set up before themselves in the different branches of science. In him are all those lights of heart and mind that demand imitation, a doctrine rich, pure, and orderly, so vast that it contains like a sea all the wisdom of the ancients. All that has been said of truth, all that has been wisely discussed by the pagan philosophers, by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, by those superior men who flourished before him, not only has he fully seized, but he has augmented, completed, classified with such clearness of method and choice of terms that successors cannot hope to imitate. Such is the pronouncement of Leo, the providential genius of our time, on the life-work of the genius of another era, and it cannot be gainsaid.

We know how that life-work was elaborated. The story of how his friends ignored the angel they entertained, so humbly did he start. The mute ox thought and prayed. He absorbed the subtle learning of the Stagyrice, and not till his own fount was full did he overflow for others. Then after twenty years of earnest toil he delved on the rock-bed of reason for a foundation. Higher and higher he built, examining each block of truth, and connecting them with care, and as the structure rose its magnificence grew evident. In it took form the mighty nave of Scripture, the long