

## VIII

“But, reply our opponents, the Church is the open enemy of modern progress. She would abolish liberty of speech, the liberty of the press, the liberty of religious worship. How can we bear up with such an exclusive neighbor? How can we live peacefully with a Church which ever works out our destruction?”

ANSWER.—The Church is not inimical to the sterling progress of the intellectual, or moral, or physical order; not inimical to that progress which draws man up to his Creator, or at least does not drive him away from God. You may, to your heart's content, build railways, telegraph-plants, steamboats, air-ships to scour the air and soar to the vaults of the sky; you may scrutinize the most difficult problems of Mathematics, of Geology, of Astronomy and Philosophy: never shall the Church hinder you in your ways, if you never attempt to lay down false conclusions at variance with her own teachings, with revealed doctrines. The Church is absolutely certain to possess the truth which God has brought down to the world; she is conscious of the mandate she has received of keeping it intact: therefore, she is bound to oppose anything that is liable to alter or corrupt