

The Ne Temere Decree

Strong Speech In Its Defence by a Member of the Anglican Synod of Huron, Mr. Walter Mills, K.C., Ridgeway, Ont.

The following is a verbatim report of the address delivered by Walter Mills, Esq., K.C., son of the late Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, at the Anglican Synod of Huron, held in the City of Stratford on the 15th of June, 1911. It is a fair interpretation of the meaning of the Ne Temere decree and deserving the favorable consideration of non-Catholics, more particularly for the reason that it comes from one who is not of the Catholic fold, a gentleman who holds a prominent place among the legal minds of the province. Mr. Mills was a delegate to the Synod from Ridgeway, Ont. The reading of this pamphlet will have for effect the correction of erroneous impressions entertained by non-Catholics in regard to the decree issued by the Pope, having reference to the Sacrament of Matrimony. A resolution as follows was proposed at the Synod by Rev. I. A. G. Wright, of Sarnia, and Mr. Mills' address was delivered in criticism of this resolution. Rev. Mr. Wright moved

"That the Synod of the Diocese of Huron, duly assembled, cordially endorses the declaration of the Archbishops and Bishops on the subject of the "Ne Temere" decree, and would hereby record its most solemn protest against the enforcement in this country of its provisions, constituting as they do, an intolerable interference with the ordinary law and a grave menace to the social life of our people."

MR. MILL'S ADDRESS

My Lord and Gentlemen.—In rising to speak upon the question which is raised by the resolution offered for the consideration of this Assembly, I do so with considerable diffidence; and because I shall make a departure from what it has been the custom at public religious assemblies to put forward as the popular cry whenever this subject has been discussed, I beg to assure you, my Lord, that whatever I may say, however I may seem to differ from the assumption which the previous speakers have gone upon, or should it seem to reflect upon what your Lordship has said in the very able and excellent deliverance which you have presented to this Synod, my respect for yourself and the high office which you hold is absolute.

The question is an important one, not only in itself, but by reason of the attention it has received and the agitation which has been fomented by clergymen in various conferences throughout the country.

It is an easy matter to stir the populace by a cry; a word with a sly insinuation which the hatred or prejudice of a hostile faith imparts, may prove a very dangerous missile when thoughtlessly uttered to the ear of the ignorant and easily-madened crowd. The cry of "stop thief" used to work like magic in accumulating a crowd which joined in a hue and cry to overtake some poor unfortunate and perhaps innocent victim; a great ungovernable mass of humanity could be gathered together in the streets of old London by this cry, and like a herd of mad, unthinking, terrorized cattle, would run in a jostling, struggling endeavor to find whom they knew not, until exhaustion, confusion or a satisfied curiosity ended their murderous pursuit. The effectiveness of an anti-Catholic cry was well illustrated in the case of a man who passing through Chicago and having been taken ill, was placed in St. Joseph's Hospital in that city; when convalescent he walked leisurely down into the streets of the

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