

ALBERT PIKE'S ANSWER

TO THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER
"HUMANUM GENUS."

Given to the World by Leo XIII in 1884, Which
Was Directed Mainly Against Free
Masonry.

READ! STUDY! REFLECT!

To which violent attack an energetic defense must respond. Good men must unite and form an immense coalition of prayers and efforts. Especially the Virgin Mary, mother of God, must be besought to become the auxiliary and interpreter of the church, displaying her power against the sects which are reviving the rebellious spirit, the incorrigible perfidy and the cunning of the devil. St. Michael, who precipitated the revolted angels into hell, St. Joseph, husband of the virgin, and the great apostles St. Peter and St. Paul must also be enlisted; and thus the imminent danger to the human race may be averted.

Instruction of the people in religious doctrine; enlargement of the Third Order of Franciscans; organization of associations of working men; gaining control of the education of the young; and incessant prayer,—these are to be the ostensible means of offense and defense. A la bonne heure! if no more were meant. But the church of Rome has never been in the habit of making known the real means or instruments which it has determined to use for the suppression of heresy or to repress the struggles of humanity to escape from the intolerable burdens of oppression; and it is not likely to do it now. The ostentatious recital of these peaceful means of antagonism does not agree with the explicit re-enactment of the bulls of Clement and Benedict. The church has other measures in view than teaching and prayer; and it is already using them in Belgium and Brazil. It has mysteries the divulging of which is interdicted; conclaves and consistories, generals of the order, assemblies that are secret, as their decisions and the means and agents of execution are. The adepts blindly and without discussion obey the injunctions of their chiefs, holding themselves always ready, upon the slightest notification or hardly perceptible sign, to execute the orders given them, devoting themselves in advance, in case of disobedience, to the most terrible penalties and even to death; were the order even to bring about the murder of another William the Silent or of the chiefs of a republic.

With such a past as that of the church of Rome is, it has been wise not to provoke comment upon its real crimes by accusing others of having committed imaginary ones; or exposure of the doctrines of the Jesuits by libelling those of Free Masonry.

It is not only just and fair and reasonable, but of absolute necessity, to conclude that any one who speaks to men by authority intends the consequences that may naturally, any where, be the effect of his words. It is even of absolute necessity, sometimes, to conclude that ambiguous phrases and significant suggestions and veiled meanings, when used as they are here, are employed to induce the commission of infamies, the explicit incitation whereunto might startle the conscience

of humanity. And this is especially of unavoidable necessity in the interpretation of the mandates of the church of Rome against those whom it considers its enemies. For it has never yet repudiated and condemned the maxims of the Spanish Jesuits or declared the suppression of the truth or the suggestion of falsehood, for the benefit of the church, to be contrary to the spirit of the gospel, or confessed itself ashamed for having so long employed the infernal machinery of the inquisition. It is infallible, can never have erred, can never change. It long ago lost all right to expect the world to give it credit for honesty of intention or frankness of expression.

This new proclamation of interdict and excommunication is, it is probable, more especially intended as a political manifesto to the clergy and Catholics of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Brazil, inciting them to treasonable plottings and combinations against the constitutional governments of those countries. It preaches to them a new crusade, the purpose whereof is to destroy these governments, to depose the monarchs who permit the existence of Free Masonry in their dominions and the expression of the voice of the people in public affairs; and to place in those kingdoms the education of the young in the hands of the soldiery of Loyola, and the power of persecuting Free Masonry and heresy and the favoring of liberal government in the holy office or inquisition armed with all its old inhuman and unchristian powers, against which the sense of justice of the whole world long ago revolted. In Brazil it incites the archbishop of Rio de Janeiro and the bishop of Para, and all the Jesuits and Ultramontane clergy, to renew the war a few years ago waged by them against Free Masonry, against the emperor and parliament and the laws of the empire, acting towards the emperor as towards one excommunicated, reprobate and accursed.

Thus it menaces the public peace in those countries, inciting revolt and insurrection and assassination, and makes the Lord's prayer the patent of an inquisitor, and the sermon on the mount a warrant for murder.

Already the general of the Jesuits and the chief inquisitor of the holy office have promulgated their orders to their troops and officials, commanding them to use their utmost exertions to carry into effect the mandates of the encyclical letter. In Spain and Portugal secret anti-Masonic associations are already being organized under these orders; and like organizations may be looked for in the United States, with resort to every other means of warfare against the great principles which Free Masonry represents, that can be prudently and safely employed.

It is also a political manifesto, and more, for our neighboring republic of Mexico and those of central and south America. There are grand lodges and supreme councils of Masons in most of them; and in all, Masonry is free to exist and work undisturbed, and is powerful and influential. In Mexico, the ex-president, now president-elect of the republic, and the actual president, are thirty-third degrees, members of the supreme council of Mexico

created by us, as the President Comonfort was a thirty-third degree, grand commander of that supreme council, and as the President Juarez was a Mason. It is well known that the population at large of the republic is uneducated and grossly ignorant, and slavishly subservient to the priesthood; and that it detests and hates Protestants as heretics, damned by the anathemas of the church and unfit to live. The priesthood in Mexico has always been the uncompromising and wily enemy of every patriotic president, of republican government, of Free Masonry, of the principles on which constitutional governments are founded, and of all the men by whose sublime efforts and sacrifices Mexico was made and has been maintained a republic.

It is also well known that, in consequence of the friendly relations between our two republics, and the extension of railroads in Mexico, built by the capital of our citizens, there now are in that country a great number of citizens of the United States, many of whom have purchased mines and lands and are working and cultivating them. The letter "Humanum Genus" is so framed and worded as to be calculated, and must therefore be taken to be artfully and deliberately intended, to incite the priesthood in Mexico to renewed zeal against heresy and heretics, and more persistent and continuous and better organized and more audacious efforts to destroy Free Masonry there and overturn republicanism. If citizens of the United States, peaceably engaged there in useful avocations, should be assassinated by mobs, instigated, if not openly led, by the priests; if Diaz and Gonzales and other Free Masons should be murdered and the church should inaugurate a bloody civil war, Pope Leo XIII. will not be able, by any special pleading, to avoid the responsibility for all the fatal consequences that may ensue.

For men have not forgotten that Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Order of Jesus, promulgated this law:

Visum est nobis in Domino nullas constitutiones posse obligationem ad peccatum mortale vel veniale inducere nisi Superior, (in nomine J.-C. vel in virtute obedientie,) Juberet."

"It has seemed to us in the Lord that no constitution can make it obligatory to commit a mortal or a pardonable sin, unless the Superior (in the name of Jesus Christ, or in virtue of obedience,) may so order."

No doubt the general of the Jesuits holds the same doctrine to-day, and is ready to apply it, if occasion should demand—that the superior in the order has the power to command an inferior to commit a mortal sin. It is a fruitful and convenient doctrine, when the matter in hand is to destroy constitutional governments in Catholic countries.

There is still more to be considered by the people of the United States; which, when they come full to comprehend the purport of this manifesto from the Vatican, they will consider. The Catholics, whom it proposes to organize into Italian colonies or camps here, obeying the laws enacted at Rome, regulating the political action by principles hostile to those on which Republican Government is founded, and sedulously inciting these upon

the young entrusted to their charge, are being thoroughly informed of its contents and meaning; for it is already being read in all their churches. Those, whose principles it damns as detestable and wicked, will come to the knowledge of it more slowly, feeling, even if Free masons, little interest in a papal bull against Free Masonry, and little inclined to read so long a paper; and slow to believe that it is an attack upon the civil institutions and system of government under which they live. But they will well understand it by and by, and have something to say in regard to it.

It makes it to be of divine obligation for every faithful Catholic in the United States to be at heart the mortal and uncompromising enemy of the principles and spirit, the plan and purpose, of the government under which he lives and whose equal laws permit him to plot and conspire against it with impunity. It proclaims it to the devout believers as a truth spoken by the mouth of God, that the great axiomatic principles, dear to the lovers of human liberty in every age, dear especially—dear beyond price or expression—to the people of the United States, on which, as upon the immovable adamant of eternal truth, their system of government is builded, are false and criminal and wicked, making the United States to be a part of the kingdom of satan.

It makes it his and her duty, therefore, to do all that it may be possible to do to eradicate these principles and destroy all that is builded upon them; to gain control, so far as possible, of the education of youth and convert the young to the Catholic faith; to win or buy for the Catholic church a power and influence in the government of the country.

Already the encyclical letter is acted upon as a political manifesto in Ireland.

Archbishop McCabe, we are told, has written a letter with reference to the approaching election of Lord Mayor for Dublin. He says he is unable to understand how Catholics could in honor and conscience cast their votes for Mr. Winstanley, who is both a home ruler and a Free Mason. "As a Free Mason he is a member of a society which aims to overthrow religion. To Free Masonry the revolutions of the last century were traceable. No one can plead non-participation as long as he remains a Mason."

And Mr. Winstanley has repudiated Free Masonry to obtain votes; and has been defeated.

But, for which thanks be unto the God of Hosts, "from whom all glories are"! Free Masonry is mightier than the church of Rome; for it possesses the invincible might of the spirit of the age and of the convictions of civilized humanity; and it will continue to grow in strength and greatness, while that church, in love with and faithful to its old traditions, and incapable of learning anything, will continue to decay. The palsied hand of the papacy is too feeble to arrest the march of human progress. It cannot bring back the obsolete doctrine that Kings reign by divine right. In vain it will preach new crusades against Free Masonry or heresy or Republicanism. It will continue to sigh in vain for the return of the days of Philip II. and Mary of England, of Loyola and Alva and Torquemada.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]