

WARNIN' MASON'S.

Full Text of Leo's Encyclical Against the Us of Masonry.

It is Being Printed in All the Roman Catholic Papers of the Country—Read it Carefully.

The following is the full text of the recent encyclical against Freemasons, sent out by the pope! It is being printed in all the Roman Catholic papers in this country. We take our copy, says the Citizen of Boston, from the Catholic News of New York, of January 11, and we preserve capitals, etc., in all places, just as they appear in the papal papers. It will be noticed that the pronouns "our," "we," etc., the capitals are used by the pope, a custom in vogue only when God himself is supposed to be speaking. No comment is needed on this—it speaks for itself. The fact that it is ordered to be printed in this country, shows that it is not intended for Freemasons in Italy alone, but for American and all other Freemasons as well.

THE POPE'S ENCYCLICAL.

DEAR CHILDREN—As the guardian of that faith to which the Christian nations owe their moral and civil redemption, We would fall in one of our chief duties if We did not raise Our voice often and very loudly against the impious war by which it is sought, dear children, to deprive you of such a precious treasure. Already taught by a long and sad experience, you know well the terrible trials of that war, and you deplore it deeply in your Catholic and Italian hearts. Indeed, could you be Italians in name and sentiment without revolting against the attacks daily directed against those divine tenets which constitute the brightest of our glories, which gave to Italy the primacy over the other nations and to Rome the spiritual scepter of the world and which raised on the ruins of paganism and barbarism the splendid structure of Christian civilization? Could you be Catholic in mind and heart, and in this very land, in the bosom of which our adorable Redeemer deigned to establish the seat of His Kingdom, see with an indifferent eye His doctrines assailed, His worship outraged, His church attacked, His Vicar subjected to hostility, so many souls that have been redeemed by His blood, and that from the chosen portion His flock, lost, and people who have been ever faithful to Him for nineteen centuries exposed to the continual and imminent peril of apostatizing from the Faith and forced into a path of errors and vices, of material misery and moral abjection?

Directed at once against our heavenly and our earthly fatherland (la patria) and our earthly fatherland (la patria celeste et la patria terrestre), against the religion of our fathers and the civilization transmitted to us by them with so much splendor in science, letters and art, the War of which We speak is, as you well understand, beloved children, doubly wicked—treason against humanity and also treason against the Divinity. But where does it principally come from if not from that Masonic sect with which We dealt at length in the Encyclical Humanum Genus of the 20th April, 1884, and in the more recent one of the 15th October, 1890, addressed to the Bishops, the clergy and the people of Italy? By means of these two letters We tore from Freemasonry the mask with which it covered itself in order to deceive the people, and We exposed it in its naked deformity, in its dark and pernicious deeds.

city of Rome itself, for how many disorders and how many calamities has it not opened a way in the course of a little more than thirty years? In such a short space of time our country has seen and suffered great evils. The religion of our fathers has become a butt for persecutions of all sorts, with the satanic design of substituting naturalism for Christianity, the worship of reason for the worship of faith, so-called independent morality for Catholic morality, the progress of matter for that of the spirit. To the holy laws and maxims of the Gospel they have dared to oppose laws and maxims which might be called the code of the Revolution; whilst they have also opposed to the schools to science, and to Christian art an abject atheistic realism. They have invaded the Temple of the Lord, they have squandered by confiscation ecclesiastical property, the greater part of the income necessary to the exercise of the holy ministry, and by the conscription of the clerics they have reduced beyond the limits of extreme need the number of priests. If they have not been able to prevent the administration of the Sacraments, they have tried nevertheless by every means to patronize civil marriages and funerals. If they have not yet succeeded in dragging from the hands of the Church the education of the young and the direction of charitable institutions they endeavor nevertheless by persistent effort to secularize both, and to effectually efface their Christian character. If they have so far failed to stifle the voice of the Catholic press,

power, in attributing to its direct and immediate action all the ills which afflict religion at this moment, one is conscious, nevertheless, of its spirit! In the facts which We have recalled, and in many others which We might mention. It is the Masonic influence, the influence of this enemy of Christ and His church, which seeks every means, and have recourse to every artifice, to seduce the eldest daughter of the Church of Christ her privileged nation, the seat of Christ's Vicar upon earth and the centre of Catholic unity. There is no need to suspect the effect of this pestilential and powerful influence on everything that nearly concerns us today from mere conjecture founded on passing indications, or to judge of it from the series of events that have succeeded each other for the last thirty years. Puffed up by its successes, the sect has loudly boasted of its works in the past and boldly proclaimed what it will do in the future. The public powers, whether these take it into account or not, are considered practically its instruments: that is to say, that this impious sect boasts of having chiefly caused the religious persecutions which have afflicted, and which still afflict, our Italy. The work has been carried out by other hands it is true, but it has been inspired, patronized, encouraged, aided, by it, mediately or immediately, directly or indirectly, by flattery or by threats, by will or by revolution. From the ruin of religion to social ruin the transition is rapid. Being no longer raised towards Heavenly hope and love, the heart of man, formed with infinite

theaters, monuments and political discourses, photography and art, all conspire to pervert the mind and corrupt the heart. At the same time the people, oppressed and impoverished, tremble; anarchist sects agitate; the working classes raise their hands and go to swell the ranks of Socialism, Communism, and Anarchy; the balance of the mind is upset and many souls knowing no longer how to suffer with dignity or to endure with manliness the expiation which is found in suffering, end their lives by the cowardly act of suicide. Behold the fruits which the Masonic sect has given to us Italians! And after this it has the boldness to present itself to you holding up its merits towards Italy, and giving to us and to all who, hearing Our word, remain faithful to Jesus Christ, the calamitous title of enemies of our country. But the facts, it is well to repeat, say enough, notwithstanding what are the favors towards our country of this perverse sect. Facts prove that Masonic patriotism is only sectarian egotism, desirous of dominating over all, thanks to the empire of modern States which remit and concentrate all into their hands. Facts say that in the designs of Freemasonry the names of political independence, of equality, civilization, and progress, aim at favoring in our country the independence of man towards God, license of error and of vice, the conspiracy of a faction to the injury of other citizens, the art of the more fortunate classes to enjoy at their ease all

patibility between the creed of a Catholic and that of a Mason you cannot, dear children, be ignorant of: Our predecessors openly warned you of it, and in the same way, We emphatically repeat the warning to you. Let those, then, who to their great misfortune have given their names to any of those societies of perdition, know that they are strictly bound to separate themselves from it if they do not wish to remain cut off from the Christian communion and to lose their souls in time and eternity. Let parents also, and teachers, and employers, and all those who have charge of the interests of others, understand that a rigorous obligation binds them to do all that is possible to prevent those who depend on them from joining this wicked sect, and from remaining in it if they have actually joined it. In a matter of so great importance, and in view of the fact that methods of allurements are so easy in our days, it is likewise imperative that the Christian be on his guard against taking the first steps, fear the smallest dangers, avoid every occasion of temptation, take the most minute precautions—in a word, according to the Evangelical counsel, employ all the prudence of the serpent whilst preserving in his heart the simplicity of the dove. Let the fathers and mothers of families take care not to receive into their houses or to admit to the intimacy of domestic confidences people who are unknown, or at least not sufficiently known with respect to their religion; let them first take steps to ascertain

fruits and sow them. And let their familiar intercourse also be avoided not only with those who are openly impious and libertines, and bear upon their foreheads the stamp of the sect, but also those who conceal their real opinions under the mask of universal tolerance, respect for all religions, and a mania for reconciling the maxims of the Gospel, and the maxims of the Revolution, Christ and Belial, the Church of God and the State without God. Let the books and the journals which distill the poison of impiety and which kindle in human breasts the fire of unbridled cupidity and sensual passions, let reading circles and reading rooms where the Masonic spirit prevails, seeking whom it may devour—be for the Christian—and for all Christians without exception—places and publications that awaken horror. Since We are dealing with a sect which has spread itself everywhere, it is not enough to be on the defensive towards it, but We must go courageously into the arena and meet it, as you will do dear children, by opposing press to press, school to school, association to association, congress to congress, action to action. Freemasonry has taken possession of the public schools, and you have the private schools, with the paternal schools and those of zealous religious and ecclesiastics of both sexes; contend with them for the education of Christian children and youth, and especially let non-Christian parents entrust the education of their children to schools in which they cannot have confidence. Freemasonry has confiscated the funds of public beneficence; make up for this by private charity. It has placed pious foundations in the hands of its members; do you entrust to Catholic institutions the distribution of the charitable funds over which you have power. It opens and keeps up houses of vice; do all that is possible to open and maintain refuges for the preservation of morality that is in peril. In its service is conducted a press anti-Christian both from the religious and civil point of view; do you by means of your active zeal and your money, assist, favor, and propagate the Catholic press. Association of mutual succor and loan societies are founded by it for the benefit of its partisans; you should do the same not only for your brethren in the faith but for all indigent persons, showing that true and sincere charity is the daughter of Him Who makes the sun to rise and the rain to fall upon the just and sinners. Let this struggle of good against evil extend itself to all things and endeavor as far as possible to repair everything. Freemasonry holds frequent congresses to concert new plans for combating the Church; do you also hold them frequently to come to a better understanding with regard to the means and the order of defence. It multiplies its lodges; do you multiply Catholic circles and parochial committees; promote associations of charity and prayer; combine together for the purpose of preserving and increasing the splendor of the Temple of God. The sect, having no longer anything to fear, shows itself in the full light of day; do you, Italian Catholics, also make open professions of your faith after the example of your glorious ancestors who in the face of tyrants, punishments and death, confessed it with intrepidity, and sealed it with the testimony of their blood. What more? The sect tries to subdue the Church, and to place it as a handmaid at the feet of the State. Do you, on the other hand, cease not to demand and within legal limits to insist, that it shall have due liberty and independence. The sect strives to destroy Catholic unity, sowing cockle amongst the clergy themselves, exciting quarrels, fomenting disorders, and inciting minds to insubordination, revolt and schism. Do you, binding more closely the sacred bonds of charity and obedience, counteract its designs, render its attempts abortive, and falsify its hopes. Like the faithful of the early Church, be of one heart and mind, and gathering around the chair of St. Peter in unity with your pastors, protect the supreme interests of the Church and the Papacy, which is also the supreme interests of Italy and of the whole Christian world. The Apostolic See has always been the promoter and the jealous guardian of the greatness of Italy. Be, then, Italians and Catholics, freemen and not sectarians, faithful to your native land and to Christ as well as to his



they have nevertheless done all they could to revile it and bring it into ill-repute. And to what contradictions, what partialities will they not descend to oppose, at whatever cost, the Catholic religion? They have closed the monasteries and the convents but they have allowed to multiply as they would Masonic Lodges and secular associations. They have proclaimed the right of association whilst the individual legal liberty which all sorts of associations use and abuse is refused to religious communities. They have promulgated religious liberty, whilst odious intolerance and manifold vexations are reserved for the religion which is pre-eminently that of the Italians, and to which they owe at least respect and special protection. The safeguard, the dignity, and the independence of the Pope, they have made most ample declarations and promises, but you will see to what outrages Our person each day is subjected. All sorts of public manifestations have an open field; it is Catholic manifestations alone, first one and then another, which are prevented or disturbed. They encourage, even in the bosom of the Church, schism, apostasy, and revolt against legitimate superiors; religious vows, and particularly that of obedience, are condemned as things contrary to man's liberty and dignity, while, at the same time, they leave unpunished associations which bind their followers by iniquitous vows, and which exact, even in matters of crime, blind and absolute obedience. Without exaggerating the Masonic

aspirations, and having need of their fulfillment, with an ardor that cannot be satisfied, grasps worldly objects, and from this, there of a necessity results a perpetual combat of passions, hungry for pleasures, riches and honors, which thus become a vast and inexhaustible source of hatreds, discords, corruption and crimes. Moral and social disorders were not lacking, it is true, in our country previous to the troubles of the present time; but what an appalling spectacle is before us in our day! In the family the loving respect which constitutes the harmony of domestic life is considerably lessened; paternal authority is too often ignored by parents and children; quarrels are frequent, and divorces are not rare: in the town one sees civil disorders multiply each day; amongst the different classes of the population bitter hatred reigns. The rising generation, set free from all moral restraint, reared with the cry of liberty (little understood) sounding in its ears, entertains no longer respect for anything, in heaven or on earth, while among them there multiply also temptations to vice, precocious crimes, and public scandals. The State, in place of being true to its high and noble mission of recognizing, guarding, and aiding in their harmonious universality of Divine and human rights, would seem almost to consider itself the arbiter, and ignores or limits them as it chooses. Social order, in a word, is universally shaken in its foundations. Books and newspapers, schools and pulpits, societies and

the lights and pleasures of life, the return of a people, bought by Divine Blood, to the divisions, to deprivations, to the shame of paganism. And we cannot be surprised at this. A sect which, after nineteen centuries of Christian civilization, attempts to ruin the Catholic church and to cut off the Divine springs of its life; which, absolutely denying the supernatural, repudiates all revelation and all the means of salvation with which revelation supplies us; which by its designs and its works bases itself solely and entirely upon a nature weak and corrupted such as ours—such a sect can be nothing else but the essence of pride, covetousness and sensuality. But pride oppresses, covetousness despoils and sensuality corrupts, and when these three forms of concupiscence reach their highest stage, the oppressions, spoiliations, and seductive corruptions, increasing more and more, assume immeasurable proportions and become sources of oppression to a whole people. Permit us, then, in addressing you, to point to Masonry as an enemy at once of God, the Church, and our country. Once for all, recognize it practically as such and guard yourselves against such a formidable enemy with all the arms that reason, conscience, and faith place in your hands. Let no one be deceived by its fair appearance, enticed by its promises, seduced by its flatteries, or alarmed by its menaces. Remember that Freemasonry and Christianity are essentially irreconcilable, so that to join one is to be entirely separated from the other. This incom-

patible between the creed of a Catholic and that of a Mason you cannot, dear children, be ignorant of: Our predecessors openly warned you of it, and in the same way, We emphatically repeat the warning to you. Let those, then, who to their great misfortune have given their names to any of those societies of perdition, know that they are strictly bound to separate themselves from it if they do not wish to remain cut off from the Christian communion and to lose their souls in time and eternity. Let parents also, and teachers, and employers, and all those who have charge of the interests of others, understand that a rigorous obligation binds them to do all that is possible to prevent those who depend on them from joining this wicked sect, and from remaining in it if they have actually joined it. In a matter of so great importance, and in view of the fact that methods of allurements are so easy in our days, it is likewise imperative that the Christian be on his guard against taking the first steps, fear the smallest dangers, avoid every occasion of temptation, take the most minute precautions—in a word, according to the Evangelical counsel, employ all the prudence of the serpent whilst preserving in his heart the simplicity of the dove. Let the fathers and mothers of families take care not to receive into their houses or to admit to the intimacy of domestic confidences people who are unknown, or at least not sufficiently known with respect to their religion; let them first take steps to ascertain

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