

**Les Nonagenaires**

A LEON XIII

M. l'abbé Outtat, curé de Thonne, raconte ainsi l'audience où il a présenté au Saint-Père, l'adresse des nonagenaires à leur illustre contemporain.

Cette adresse, comprenant 2,067 signatures, était écrit à la main; très richement reliée en maroquin blanc doublé de soie jaune or, renfermée dans un bel ecria masqué aux armes du Pape. L'entête portait ces mots splendidelement enluminés, au-dessus desquels deux anges aux ailes déployées tenaient d'une main la tiare et de l'autre l'emblème de la charité et de la pureté:

A SA SAINTÉTÉ

("Lumen in caelo")

LEON XIII

"Les nonagenaires"

—Que m'apportez-vous? dit le Saint-Père, dès que je fus à genoux dans la petite salle du trône.

—Une adresse de 2,067 vieillards, Très Saint-Père, la plupart nés comme Votre Sainteté en 1810 et qui ont voulu, en cette année deux fois jubilaire, offrir à leur Père commun leurs hommages et leurs vœux.

Oh! que c'est touchant! Et comment avez-vous fait pour recueillir toutes ces adhésions?

—Je me suis fait secourir par la presse catholique, Très Saint-Père.

—Oh! que c'est beau!!

Pendant la lecture de l'adresse, Sa Sainteté donnait après chaque période des marques sensibles tantôt d'approbation, tantôt de satisfaction, ici de tristesse, là d'espérance. Elle se montra surtout profondément peinée de la résistance obstinée que le monde apporte à suivre les enseignements du Christ. Souvent elle levait vers le ciel ses beaux yeux si vifs, si intelligents, si bon, comme pour reporter vers Dieu et son Christ tous les honneurs et les félicitations qu'on lui adresse.

Leon XIII a répondu:

"Dites à tous ces bons vieillards que je les bénis du fond de mon cœur, et avec eux tous ceux qui leur sont chers.

"Comme vous le dites fort bien, 'il faut' que le monde revienne aux idées saines, aux sentiments chrétiens! 'Il faut' qu'il reconnaisse 'son' Créateur le seul vrai Dieu de la terre et du ciel, et son Fils unique, le Christ Rédempteur! 'Il faut' que l'homme renonce au culte de la matière, des jouissances, du naturalisme, pour s'élever au-dessus des choses qui passent vers les biens éternels.

"Ah! si chaoun savait reconnaître, comme nous, vieillards nonagenaires, 'que tous ici-bas est pure vanité.'!..."

"Nous avons tout récemment consacré un Cœur sacré du Christ Rédempteur l'univers chrétien tout entier. C'est par lui que nous viendra le salut. Aussi, je vous prie, répandez partout cette salutaire dévotion!

"Nous préparons en ce moment une nouvelle Encyclique, laquelle sera comme le couronnement de toutes celles que nous avons publiées jusqu'ici, et nous avons la confiance que nos paroles, inspirées par le grand désir que nous avons du bonheur de tous, seront, Dieu aidant, écoutées religieusement et fidèlement mises en pratiques."

A la prière que je lui fis de vouloir bien bénir tous les "chers protestants," Sa Sainteté me dit: "Oh! oui, de tout

mon cœur je bénis les protestants!—Oui; je les bénis tous avec effusion!"

UN CHATIMENT MERITE

Un fait qui mérite d'être raconté et que tous les journaux antiléricains ont bien voulu passer sous silence, et pour cause, vient d'avoir lieu dans des circonstances, l'on peut dire miraculeuses, elles feront réfléchir certains classe de gens (heureusement en minorité) pour laquelle rien n'existe de sacré et qui tournent en ridicule jusqu'aux choses les plus pures, les plus saintes.

Le fait, que l'on mande de Barcelone et qui a eu lieu pendant les fêtes du dernier carnaval, est celui-ci.

Le dernier carnaval, sur la place de Catalogne, une parodie sacrilège, abominable, passait entre deux rangées d'individus qui riaient aux éclats de l'odieuse comédie représentée sous leurs yeux.

Trois jeunes coquins, déguisés en prêtres, simulaient le cortège du Saint-Viatique, pendant que d'autres mauvais garnements, portant des torches allumées, suivaient en psalmodiant des paroles sans nom, et que quatre autres individus portaient sur un brancard, un d'entre eux misérable feignant d'être mourant et auquel le Viatique allait être administré!

Je passerai sous silence, par pudeur et respect, afin de ne point souiller les oreilles des lecteurs, les lazzi et les gouailleries que ces goujats, passez-moi le mot, se sont permis à l'adresse du Saint Sacrement, sans qu'un seul individu, ni un seul agent de la police barcelonaise—et cela est vraiment inouï—ait eu le courage d'intervenir pour mettre un terme à ce triste et révoltant scandale.

Mais si les hommes sont restés impassibles devant ce sacrilège inouï, Dieu a voulu manifester sa toute puissance en ne permettant pas que les auteurs d'un semblable méfait continuassent, impunis, leur amusement sacrilège.

Il a justement châtié le plus coupable d'entre eux et terrifié par ce châtiment les autres qui, on peut le croire, n'auront jamais plus envie de recommencer.

Voici ce qui arriva:

Pendant que le défilé de cette parodie sacrilège passait devant une église où se trouvait exposé le Saint-Sacrement, tout d'un coup, l'individu qui était étendu sur le brancard, se mit à crier, pris d'un mal subit, mais réel alors.

Immédiatement on s'empressa de le conduire à la pharmacie la plus voisine, celle de M. Balasch; un docteur présent prêta tous ses soins au malade; mais tout fut inutile, le faux mourant était réellement bel et bien mort!

La presse impie et anti-religieuse s'est bien gardée de parler de ce fait, qui a fortement impressionné la population de Barcelone, laquelle n'a pu s'empêcher de reconnaître dans ce châtiment exemplaire, une nouvelle manifestation de la toute-puissance divine de Notre-Seigneur.—L'univers.

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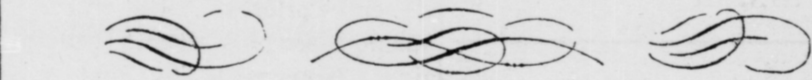
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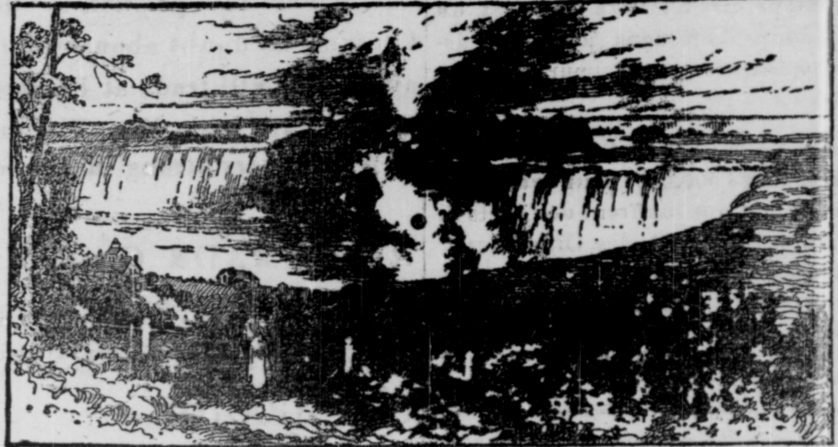
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