

The Pope on Jews and Frenchmen.

Correspondence London Times.

Mme. Séverine of the *Figaro* has interviewed the Pope on Anti-Semitism, and her long report is accepted by the Catholic papers as at least founded on fact.

She represents the Pope as saying that Christ shed his blood for all men without exception, especially for unbelievers who stood in most need of redemption. He has left it to his Church to win these by persuasion, for all violence is contrary to the divine will, and religious wars are a contradiction in terms. As for a war of races, all races spring from Adam, differences of color are immaterial, and if missionaries are sent to heretics, infidels, and savages it is because all are God's creatures and all equal in His sight.

Even when the Gherro existed at Rome, the priests constantly went about among the Jews ascertaining their wants, curing the sick, and trying to discuss with and convert them. The Popes, too, protected the Jews from mobs. The Church's mission is to defend the weak and also to defend itself against any attempt at oppression. After so many scourges, the reign of money has come, but neither the Church nor the people will submit to be subjugated by money.

Here Mme. Séverine asked what he thought of the rich Jews, but the Pope simply answered: "I am with the humble, those who have nothing, those whom our Lord loved."

The Pope is then represented as inquiring what Frenchmen thought of him, and as being informed that the Royalists had a grudge against him, that the Republicans, especially the State Socialists, detested him as a competitor, and that the masses were surprised at his interesting himself in them. Thereupon the Pope, smiling, said: "Yet I do not want to be King of France," and he added that the Church held aloof from politics, and that he wished to rule over men's souls, merely to secure their welfare, brotherhood, the cessation of discords, the reign of love and pity. He concluded by speaking of France as the object to which his eyes had been turned whenever he had raised his voice from the rooms in which he had spent fifteen years without ever going outside.

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