



circumscribes her range of teaching, then private judgment of necessity starts up; there is nothing to hinder it ... A Catholic sacrifices his opinion to the Word of God, declared through His Church; but from the nature of the case, there is nothing to hinder him having his own opinion and expressing it, whenever, and so far as, the Church, the oracle of Revelation, does not speak.

## Pietas fidei

In saying this, it must not be supposed that I am denying what is called the *pietas fidei*, that is, a sense of the great probability of the truth of enunciations made by the Church, which are not formally and actually to be considered as the "Word of God".

Doubtless it is our duty to check many a speculation, or at least many an utterance, even though we are not bound to condemn it as contrary to religious truth.

But, after all, the field of religious thought which the duty of faith occupies is small indeed compared with that which is open to our free, though of course to our reverent and conscientious, speculation.

I draw from these remarks two conclusions; first as regards Protestants, — Mr Gladstone should not on the one hand declaim against us as having "no mental freedom", if the periodical press on the other hand is to mock us as admitting a liberty of private judgment, purely Protestant. We surely are not open to contradictory imputations.

Every note of triumph over the differences which mark our answers to Mr Gladstone is a distinct admission that we do not deserve his injurious reproach that we are captives and slaves of the Pope.

## Abundare in suo sensu

Secondly, for the benefit of some Catholics, I would observe that, while I acknowledge one Pope, *jure divino*, I acknowledge no other, and that I think it a usurpation, too wicked to be comfortably dwelt upon, when individuals use their own private judgment, in the discussion of religious questions, not simply "abundare in suo sensu", but for the purpose of anathematizing the private judgment of others.'

**Grand President  
Joe McNally**



Cardinal Newman

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