

The Chamber of Deputies, among the many insults it has heaped on Our Most Holy Religion and upon its Ministers, as well as upon the Vicar of Christ on earth, has proposed a new constitution containing many articles, not a few of which conflict with Divine Religion, its salutary doctrines, its most holy precepts, and with its rights. . . . For the purpose of more easily corrupting manners and propagating the detestable pest of indifference and tearing souls away from our Most Holy Religion, it allows the free exercise of all cults and admits the right of pronouncing in public every kind of thought and opinion. . . . And so that the Faithful who reside there may know and the Catholic World may understand that We energetically reprove everything the Mexican government has done against the Catholic Religion, against its Church, its sacred ministers and pastors and against its laws, rights, and properties, as well as against the authority of the Holy See, we raise our Pontifical Voice in apostolic liberty . . . to condemn, to reprove and declare null and void the said decrees and everything else that the civil authority has done in scorn of ecclesiastical authority and of this Holy See. . . . Pope Pius IX.³

3.3. CHURCH: POPE PIUS IX REJECTS THE CONSTITUTION OF 1857

The Liberals brought together their political views and plans for the nation in the Constitution of 1857. The Liberals did not specifically state that Mexicans enjoyed freedom of religion, but because there was no statement on the Roman Catholic Church as the official religion, opened the country to other churches. In addition, the Constitution limited a number of Church privileges, such as separate courts, and it closed monasteries. Pope Pius IX responded to the Liberals and their document in the following statement.