

## APPENDIX II

Letter to Dom Pothier from the Cardinal Secretary of State in the name of the Pope,

Very Reverend Father,

The preparatory work of the Pontifical Commission for the Vatican Edition of the Gregorian Liturgical Books has brought into relief the many advantages to be derived from a *simplification of the work of compilation* in rendering more profitable the results hitherto obtained by the reform, already introduced, of the Gregorian Chant.

The Holy father, therefore, after having again paid a due tribute of praise to the Benedictine Monks, especially those of the French Congregation and of the Monastery of Solesmes, for their enlightened and profitable labors in the reform of the sacred melodies of the Church, has been pleased to decide that the forthcoming *Vatican Edition shall be based on the Benedictine Edition published at Solesmes in 1895*, thus recognising the just value of that well executed reform.

*To Your Reverence, then, as President of the Pontifical Commission, the Holy Father entrusts the delicate task of revising and correcting the edition in question*, and in this work you will ask the assistance of the different members of the Commission, availing yourself when necessary of the precious paleographic studies carried out under the wise direction of the Very Rev. Abbot of Solesmes. And in order that the important work may be carried on with greater alacrity and concord, His Holiness proposes to appeal to the various members of the Commission to apply their studies more directly to those liturgical books, the reform of which is as yet not far advanced.

These dispositions, and especially that by which the Edition made at Solesmes in 1895 is made the basis of the Vatican Edition, will serve to safeguard the letter and the spirit of the previous Pontifical documents, including the Brief addressed to the Father Abbot of Solesmes on May 22, 1904, and to arrive at the best scientific and practical solution.

Yours very affectionately in the Lord,  
R. Cardinal Merry De I Val.  
Rome, June 24, 1905