

No new dogmas of faith are to be invented by the Council. Christ revealed all through his Holy Spirit, "But when the Spirit of truth is come, he will teach you all truth. For he shall not speak of himself; but what things soever he shall hear, he shall speak, and the things that are to come he shall show you" (St. John xvi. 13).

The fathers of the Council will draw their decisions from the treasury of truth, contained in the written words of God and in the traditions of the Church. "Therefore, brethren, stand fast: and hold the traditions you have learned, whether by word or by epistle." (II. Thes. 2, 14.) The world pretends to laugh at the Council as at an obsolete system of government. If so, why occupy so much time and money in sending on the lighting wings so many reports true and false; and why so many speculations of governments and people concerning its future decrees? Why so much dismay at the meeting of men, generally old, and considered by the world of little importance. Councils are old modes of governing the Church. They date back to the time of the Apostles, when they assembled together in Jerusalem to settle the difficulties of the early Church. (Acts ch. xv.)

The Council will have one effect; it will, at least, justify God "That he may be justified in His words and overcome when He is judged." (Ps. 50.) When God judges and condemns the wicked, they cannot allege the want of knowing the truth.

500 The Council will review the condition of the world. 1st. The Pagan world. It consists of at least 500 millions of Pagans who don't acknowledge Christ, or the redemption which he has wrought. They are divided into Sees *in partibus*, though subject to the jurisdiction of 200 Bishops scattered throughout the world, with all Pagan obstacles to encounter. What are 200 Bishops for such a multitude? The harvest, indeed, is great, but the laborers are few. The Council will take into consideration what is to be done for that vast multitude of souls made to the image and likeness of God. 2nd. The Christian world. It is divided into two classes, 200 millions in Communion with the Holy See, and between 60 and 70 millions of Protestants, who, though baptised, do not belong to the one fold. The Council will see what abuses or want of discipline may exist amongst the Catholics, and what remedy is to be applied to these abuses, what further lustre may be added to the works of the Church, and what means to be taken to extend its boundaries. The Council will take into consideration her rebellious children who protest against her authority and teaching. Those rebellious children are called by the generic term of Protestants; but are divided and subdivided into innumerable sects, all differing more or less from one another. A sect can only produce a sect, never an entire body. Those sects are so numerous that lexicographers can hardly keep track of them. Dictionaries have been composed giving an account of the doctrine and description of those sects. And this extraordinary product of private judgment with respect to religion has been aptly styled the "aberrations of the human mind." Amongst those sects there are very many well-meaning people. They are uneasy, fretful and yearn after the truth; they wish to belong to the true fold of Christ;