

to forewarn you against the danger of being seduced by the enemies of truth, they condemn their impious theories, and with all the fervency of their zeal, censure and stigmatize the principal errors which are current in our times.

O, dearly beloved Brethren, we beseech you by the love you cherish for your eternal salvation, by the value you put on it, hold fast to that catholic faith, which is a priceless gift of God, to that faith which you inherited from your fathers; which is for you, as it was for them, the grounds of your hope, which alone can guide you, as it guided them, to happiness in the present as well as in the future life. Preserve it as the most precious of treasures, as your very soul, at the peril of your fortunes, nay at the peril of life itself: ad here firmly to "the pillar of truth," ^{(1) First Ti. moth. 2-15.} the Catholic Church, its depository and infallible guardian; hearken to that only Church of God, with whom Jesus has promised to remain to the end of the world; hearken also and obey, with religious fidelity, the pastors whom God has appointed over you, to teach you and to lead you in the ways of salvation; and fly from the presence of their treacherous men, who teach a doctrine different from that of the Church, as if there could be any other Gospel than the one Jesus-Christ gave to his Church, with the positive command to teach it to every creature, until the consummation of the world; shun them, as heretics as corrupters of the faith, as impious seducers, as the sworn enemies of your souls, banish from your houses all their books, as being infected with the deadly poison of their errors, which they offer you with the sole intention of corrupting your faith, of seducing you and of securing your perdition. Yes! D. B. B., we repeat it, if you prize your own salvation and that of your families; if you love your salvation and that of your children; detest those heretical books, as well as those which an infidel and irreligious press belches forth, with a hell-born energy throughout the whole world: shun them, reject them, cast them away far from yourselves and from your families; give them no admission into your homes.

In the order of the matters treated by the Council, as in the order of salvation, the sacraments follow Faith.

Faith disposes the soul to its union with God, and it is by the means of the sacraments that this holy union is perfected and consummated. Faith is the principle, the foundation and root of justification, "and it is by the sacraments that all