

vine Wisdom presiding over the Council suggested moderation, and the decree was not made. Not that a single doubt lingered in the mind of that holy assembly; for, in order to testify to the entire world its sympathy for the Immaculate Conception, the Council declared that it had no intention to include the *Blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God*, in the decree which proclaims the universal propagation of original sin in the race of Adam; and it added that the Constitutions of Sixtus IV were to be maintained.

For the good sense of the people, this was sufficient; for obstinate science, it was too little: the party survived this heavy blow. In vain did St. Pius V proscribe a proposition of Baius rejecting Mary's privilege; in vain did he give to the feast of the Conception the hitherto unheard-of sanction of a rigorous precept; in vain did he forbid, under the most severe penalties, the continuance, in any of the vulgar tongues, of a dispute which could only scandalize the people; in vain did the Sacred Congregation of the Inquisition obtain, at the request of the Spanish monarch, a decree marked with the pontifical seal, forbidding any one to affirm, thenceforward, that Mary was *conceived in original sin*; it was still necessary for Gregory XV to silence the adversaries once again, and to forbid them from making their debates public.

Driven back, then, into the depth of souls, the