

that these terrible enemies are the men who, *armed with the assistance of the Secret Societies, would abolish all religious worship; who trample under their feet the Sacred Rights of the Church, by endeavouring to have an unjust mastery over her, who exalt human reason as much as they can, even to raising it to a level with Divine Revelation; who think that we must hope for the salvation of all men, even of those who do not live in the bosom of the Church of Jesus Christ, out of which, nevertheless, it is impossible to be saved.* (Allocution of the 9th December, 1854); *who have the temerity to deny every truth, every law, every authority and every right of Divine origin; who fear not to publish, with the vice of deceiving men, that the Roman Pontiff and all the Sacred Ministers of the Church must be excluded from every right and every control over temporalities.* (Allocution of the 9th, June, 1862.)

These fatal errors, and many others equally prejudicial, are propagated over the whole world, in a manner truly alarming, as well by means of bad books and irreligious newspapers, as by impious discourses delivered from the rostrums and the pulpits of pestilential doctrines. What we have still more to deplore, is that they seduce and infect even religious minds, who are not on their guard; for the men who proclaim them, take great pains to hide their dark designs under the outward appearance of religion which they make a pretence of respecting, in order the more surely to deceive the simple minded.

These are the ensnaring errors, which the supreme chief of Pastors has not ceased to point out to the whole world, for the last ten years, in order that the true children of the Church may not be exposed to the danger of falling into them. We are, thus only acting in conformity with the wish of the Vicar of J. C. by calling your attention, this day, to so important a subject, and by deciding that the pontifical allocutions, containing salutary warnings, shall be published in connection with the Decrees of our present Council. You will, therefore, listen with a filial docility, Beloved Brethren, to these paternal counsels, when they are explained to you by your Pastors, with the zeal with which you know them to be imbued, and of which they give you proof, each time that it behoves them to provide for the wants of your souls.

Having made known to you, Beloved Brethren, those you are to fear as the enemies of your Faith, we must now tell you where the dangers you have to avoid are to be found, and what are the snares laid for you by those wicked men. For in these days, more than ever, the powers of Hell make use of every means to ruin utterly, if that were possible, the true religion; and the tempests that arise against her, on the stormy sea of this world, are becoming more and more furious.