

“ you renounce the pride of life, practise humility, fly honors, and teach others this spirit of renoucement ? ” We answered : “ We will ”.

“ Finally, you who are about to become Father and Pastor, you to whom will apply the poor, strangers, orphans, and the needy, will you, for God’s sake, be to them affable and merciful ? *Vis pauperibus et peregrinis omnibusque indigentibus esse propter nomen Domini affabilis et misericors ?* Will you be to them affable and merciful, that is to say, when your hands are empty will you give them, at least, the alms of a kind and compassionate word ; and when they shall be filled, the alms of a benefit, of an assistance, given with love.” We answered : “ We will ”.

Such is, O. D. B. B., a summary of the duties imposed on your Bishop ; obedience will not allow us to exempt ourselves therefrom.

The Holy Ghost expresses them in this text of the acts of the Apostles :

*Take heed to yourselves, and to the whole flock, wherein the Holy Ghost hath placed you Bishops, to rule the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood. (XX. 28.)*

When, before God, we meditate these words, in fear we cannot but repeat the words which Moses spoke to God on Mount Horeb, when about to begin the mission confided to him. “ *Who am I ? O Lord ! that I should go, and should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt ? — Quis sum ego ut vadam..... et educam filios Israel ?* (Exod. III. 2.)

You are aware, O. D. B. B., that the episcopal dignity is no favor, it is a heavy burden, it is a ministry terrible to the angels themselves, the dangers and responsibilities of which we understand, to day, better than ever.

The love we bear you, the charity you owe us, the interest of your souls, all obliges you, O. D. B. B., to call down upon us light and strength from on high ; it is but just that you should aid us, by your fervent prayers, in the fulfilment of our duties.