

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HOLINESS,

You have called together your Bishops to consult with them on holy things, and a great deal of time has passed in discussing your infallibility, without your having arrived at any satisfactory conclusion. Now, I beseech you, take God's Holy Word and see what it says about man's past, present and future state. Let us carry back our minds to that time when God, having prepared this beautiful world, one lovely garden containing all that the eye delights to behold, created and placed in it a perfect man, pure and holy, a little lower than the angels, who received one command from God Himself, not to eat the fruit of one tree in the garden. To make him completely happy, Eve was given to be his comforter and companion. The Bible does not say that God talked with Eve, but it does say that she knew the command; the serpent must have known it also. Whether the privilege of seeing, walking and talking with God was enjoyed by Adam alone, we cannot say; or, whether man was made by God to fill the place of those angels "which kept not their first estate," but left their own habitation, we can only conjecture.