

of the means most suitable to make you understand the importance of the counsels which we have to give you : and whilst listening to what we say to you, do not forget that we speak to you by order of *God the Father, and of Jesus Christ the Son, who will one day judge the living and the dead*, both the pastors and their flocks.

I.

THE SOVEREIGN PONTIFF.

It is right, Dear Brethren, that our first glance should be directed towards Him whom the Sovereign and Invisible Pastor has chosen to govern, in a visible manner, the Church redeemed by the blood of the Immaculate Lamb. Children of the Church, nothing that concerns our mother can be indifferent to us, and if we rejoice with her, we must also share in her sorrows and her fears.

You are not unacquainted with the audacious projects of those impious men who wish, not merely to rob, but also to annihilate the apostolic throne upon which is seated the successor of Blessed Peter, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, the Father and the Teacher of all Christians. In order to conceal the perfidy of their hateful plots, they feign to aim at nothing more than the destruction of the temporal power of the Pope, and hypocritically protest that they have the greatest respect for his spiritual authority. We will not allow ourselves to be deceived by those thenceforward protestations. We understand too well that : “ It is by “ a particular design of divine Providence, who rules and governs all things, that “ this temporal sovereignty has been given to the Roman Pontiff, in order that, “ not being subjected to any civil power, he may exercise, with the most complete “ liberty and without any hindrance, throughout the world, the supreme charge “ of the apostolic ministry which has been confided to him by Christ our Lord.” (*Encyclical of 19th January 1860.*)

“ In fact, all know that the faithful would not have an entire confidence “ in, nor complete obedience towards, the Roman Pontiff, if they saw him subject “ to a foreign prince and deprived of his liberty.” (*Allocution of 20th April 1849.*)

This temporal sovereignty being intended for the good of the Church, it is not surprising that the enemies of this Church should endeavor to destroy it ; nor is it more surprising that all true and sincere Catholics should consider themselves as threatened and struck to the heart by all the plots directed against the Pope, and that they look for means to defend their common Father.

We are happy to be able to state that you have fully understood, and nobly