

publicly to declare that their answers have appeared to us altogether satisfactory, with respect to orthodoxy and to their fixed determination to submit, in all things, to the decisions of the Holy See. Without referring to the past, we ordain that, in future, any one having conscientious grounds of complaint against this catholic Institution, or any other, shall not appeal to the incompetent tribunal of public opinion, through public prints, but to those whom the holy laws of the catholic hierarchy have appointed the judges and guardians of faith. We are not, we catholics, so strong that we may, without danger, render our separated brethren the witnesses of our intestine divisions; and besides charity, which must unite together the members of the great catholic family, prescribes rules which we cannot violate without offending God.

## VI.

## ELECTIONS.

Already, O. D. B. B., by the decrees of the preceeding Councils, and in many circular and pastoral letters, we have warned you against the numerous disorders too frequently occasioned by the elections.

We here say, with profound grief, that this terrible evil, far from abating, seems, on the contrary, to be on the increase. The men called to govern the state are not less concerned than your pastors: they have enacted new laws to check these disorders, which threaten to shake civil society to its very foundations; we come, in our turn, to propose to you, not new laws, but the immovable rules which divine wisdom has established as the essential bases of all societies; rules so necessary that, without them, civil society can have neither peace nor security, as the perpetual agitations, to which certain nations in Europe are a prey, abundantly prove.

God is the Lord of nations as well as of individuals: He shall judge all with inflexible justice.

God is the Lord of those who govern, as well as of those who are governed: and He shall call to a strict account the public and private conduct of all.