

and so calm amidst the tempests which torment the Church, that majesty so gentle and so holy of Pius IX, that man of the right hand of God, that Angel of the earth, and to offer to him your and our homage : the homage of our filial piety, of our profound respect, of our love and of our perfect devotedness, happy to be present, in company with all our brothers of this province, at that august assembly of all the princes of God's people ; happy in fine to press with them, in those great Assizes of the Church of God, round Her Visible Head, in order to fight with Him and under his orders the fight of the Lord : the fight against the spirit of error ; the fight against the spirit of evil and of untruthfulness ; and to proclaim and to cause to triumph at last the eternal truth which alone can save the world.

For such is the object of this great Council, and that is the end which the Sovereign Pontiff has proposed to himself in convoking it.

To procure the greatest glory of God, the honor of his worship, the integrity of the faith, the eternal salvation of men, the holiness of discipline in the clergy, the purity of morals among the faithful, a christian education to youth, the instruction of nations, to remove every evil from the Church and from society, to put down vice, to repel error, to bring back strayed men to the path of truth and of justice, to enlighten and to save the world : that is what the council has in view : that is its great object : that is the work which it proposes to itself, and on which it is about to deliberate.

You see therefore, D. B. B., that this work of the Council is the work itself of God ; the work of the Son of God in the world :—the work of the salvation of the world which He has confided to His Church, yes, that is what the Oecumenical Council is about to effect ; that is the holy work which it seeks to accomplish with the all-powerful assistance of the Saviour of the world who will preside over it as supreme head of the Church, and under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost who will enlighten it. For He has promised to His apostles and to their successors “ to be with them all days, even to the consummation of the world, “ to be in the midst of them where they shall be gathered together in His name, “ and to send them His Holy Spirit to teach them all truth, ” and to suggest to them all they must do for the salvation of men.

Therefore, in this Council, as in all the general councils which have preceded it in the Church of God, every thing will be done under the presidency and influence of Jesus Christ, and under the inspiration of His Divine Spirit. Jesus-Christ will Himself labour with the Bishops and direct them ; and the Holy Ghost will enlighten them. They will be enabled to say, with confidence, like