

what to say to you on so serious a subject, and he will give to you the intelligence you stand in need of, to seize those principles which it is necessary to engrave in all hearts.

Such, D. B. B., are the principal reasons which should inflame your zeal, in order to second the efforts made by the common Father of the great christian family, for the conversion of our dear separated brethren.

Whilst listening to the Apostolic Letter he has addressed to them, you will observe, that he presents himself to them as the successor of St. Peter, set over the government of the whole church, and that he calls their attention to the intimate union which exists between himself and all the Catholic Bishops whom he has convoked in œcumenical council.

Why then, D. B. B., this preamble? Is it because our separated brethren ignore that the reigning Pope is the immortal Pius IX? Certainly, not; many of them have seen this admirable Pontiff, have heard him, have spoken to him, have assisted at the grand demonstrations of which he has been the object, during his long and glorious Pontificate; and it may be affirmed, that those among them who are the most honorable on account of their education and their lofty sentiments, respect his person, admire his wisdom and love the mildness of his government.

Why then, once more, this preamble? Because, since the Reformation, that is to say, for more than three hundred years since the ties were broken which united the forefathers of our separated brethren with the Holy See, the Pope has hardly been known to them save under the name of Antichrist; and Rome, the capital of his empire as a veritable Babylon.

It was therefore necessary, on making them hear his voice as Pastor and Father, for the first time since that unfortunate and fatal epoch, he should officially inform them that he truly occupies the chair of St. Peter; that he governs the Church with all the authority which Our Lord himself has given unto him; that all the catholic Bishops recognise him as their chief; that they would soon arrive in Rome, there to hold a grand Council; and that he calls them also thither, that they may derive the most precious advantages from the Council.