

trine of Jesus Christ, and the mysteries of heavenly grace are dispensed."

"For ourselves, to whom the same Christ Our Lord has confided the charge of the Supreme Apostolic Ministry, and who ought, in consequence, to fulfil with the utmost zeal, all the functions of a good shepherd, and love with a fatherly love, and embrace in Our charity, all men scattered over the earth, we address this Letter to all the christians separated from Us, and we exhort them again and conjure them to hasten their return to the one fold of Christ. For We ardently desire their salvation in Christ Jesus, and We should fear to have one day to render an account to Him who is our judge, if we did not show them, and, as much as it lies in Our power, give them the assured means of finding out the way which leads to eternal salvation. In all Our prayers, supplicating and giving thanks, we cease not, day or night, to ask for them, humbly and earnestly of the Eternal Pastor of souls, an abundance of light and heavenly grace.

"And since, notwithstanding Our unworthiness, we are His Vicar upon earth, with hands uplifted, we await with the most ardent desire, the return of Our erring sons to the Catholic Church, in order that we may be able to receive them with love into the house of the Heavenly Father, and enrich them with his inexhaustible treasures. Upon this so ardently desired return to the truth and the communion of the Catholic Church, depends the salvation not only of individuals, but also of all christian society. The whole world is unable to enjoy true peace, if it does not become one flock under one shepherd.

"Given at Rome, near St. Peter's, September 18th 1868, and the twenty-third year of Our Pontificate."

Now, D B. B., since we have heard these moving words, we shall further penetrate into the heart of Our Father, in order to be imbued with the sentiments that animate it. After his example, let us seize the occasion of the future Œcumenical Council to labor, as far as we can, to recall our separated brethren to the bosom of the Church, to which their forefathers belonged as well as our own. It is only three hundred years since they separated from it, and before that time they were Catholics like ourselves. Evidently their religion does not go back to the Apostles, and consequently, it is not Apostolical. Let us make them