

chap. viii. 17, says: "Obey your Prelates, and be subject to them. For they watch as being to render an account of your souls; that they may do this with joy and not with grief," &c.

Councils cannot invent any new doctrine; they only can define what was the belief of the Church from the beginning, and define it as a dogma of Catholic faith, to be explicitly believed. They make, however, new decrees of discipline according to the exigencies of the times.

Councils are held by denominations outside the Catholic Church, but their decrees are not considered even by themselves irreformable or binding in conscience.

Q. What is meant by the infallibility of the Pope?

A. It means that the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks *ex cathedra*, that is when in discharge of the office of Pastor and Doctor of all Christians by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the Universal Church, by the divine assistance promised to him in blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the Divine Redeemer willed that this Church should be endowed for defining doctrines regarding faith and morals: and that, therefore, such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are irreformable of themselves and not from the consent of the Church.

In every well-ordered society or government there must be a final tribunal at which all disputes must be settled. It is meet that in the Church of God there should be such a tribunal.