

many oracles, makes known so many truths and spreads abroad so many flames of divine charity, for the salvation of countless millions of souls.

For this end, it behoves you to be well acquainted with this Letter, which contains the grand principles upon which repose all the solidity and harmony of our holy religion. You will therefore make it a duty to study it carefully, by listening attentively to the instructions which will be given to you upon it, by reading for yourselves this solemn appeal of the best of Fathers to cherished children, whose loss he bitterly regrets, and by contemplating in it, the immensity of the purest charity with which it overflows, in order to let us see the length and the depth and the width of his fatherly love.

There is here question, note it well, D. B. B., of doing everything in your power that this Apostolic Letter may not be a Dead Letter. Now it would be one, were it to pass unperceived: if no body spoke of it; if it did not come to the knowledge of those whom it ought to warn that they are walking in a bad way; if it were not well understood; if it did not excite a lively interest, as is becoming to a document of such great importance; if it were not appreciated as it ought to be; if it were not protected against false interpretations which will not fail to be made; if, in a word, it did not produce, throughout the whole world, a great movement in the minds and hearts of those who call themselves the children of God.

But if this Letter were to be only a dead letter, D. B. B., would it not be a veritable dishonor for our holy religion, a great ignominy for our common Father, and a profound humiliation for ourselves? Undoubtedly, you all feel this acutely in the innermost of your souls: and you resolve to apply yourselves seriously to the work, to render yourselves capable of fulfilling the mission with which you are charged. Religion expects of you that you will do your duty. Once more, it is necessary, that the Apostolic Letter addressed to our separated brethren by O. H. F. the Pope, should come to their knowledge, through the medium of good catholics, who will communicate it to them by every means in their power. You will therefore listen with holy avidity, to the instructions which your zealous pastors will not fail to give you on the subject. Rest assured that the Lord will inspire them