

**THE CHURCH OF GOD AND THE  
BISHOPS: AN ESSAY SUGGESTED  
BY THE CONVOCATION OF THE  
VATICAN COUNCIL**

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The church of God and the bishops: an essay suggested by the convocation of the Vatican Council  
by Heinrich St. A. von Liaño

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**HEINRICH ST. A. VON LIAÑO**

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THE VATICAN COUNCIL*

BY

HENRY ST. A. VON LIAÑO

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## NOTICE

### *TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION*

**T**HE Author of this little work is a Spanish Catholic of noble family, now resident at Munich, where he is well known for his devout and ascetic life, his deep religious convictions, and his zealous attachment to his Church, which he believes—as will be seen from the following pages—to be just now passing through a peculiarly trying and perilous crisis.

The present translation was undertaken with the sanction and kind encouragement of the Author. It is published in the belief that there are many English readers, both Protestant and

Catholic, who will be glad of the opportunity of studying Señor von Ljaño's weighty words in their own language. Should this anticipation be realised, a translation of a later essay of his, on the distinction between dogma and opinion, (*Dogma und Schulmeinung*)—written with particular reference to the proposed erection of Papal Infallibility and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into articles of faith—may perhaps be offered to the public hereafter.

## P R E F A C E

THE Author of this little work, in this hour of peril, and in presence of a party which has been permitted in our days, in a manner hitherto unheard of, to disseminate its own ideas as the expression of Church truth, is convinced that he represents the most sacred interests of his Church, to which he is in all things and most unreservedly devoted.

He has written because he knows what immeasurable dangers threaten us, should the plans of that school be realised, even in part.

He knows that he can only very imperfectly fulfil the task which he has undertaken from a sense of duty, and he laments that, in consequence of the exceedingly deplorable circumstances of the times, no better champions of these views have as yet stepped forward.