

VOVETE ET REDDITE

YOU CANNOT DISAGREE WITH ST. THOMAS WHEN HE GIVES THE NOTION OF A THING PERFECT. PERFECTUM EST ID CUI NIHIL DEEST. A THING IS PERFECT, WHEN NOTHING IS WANTING TO IT. THE PERFECTION OF NATURE CONSISTS IN THERE BEING NOTHING WANTING TO THE NATURE OF THE THING: TH^uXS A MAN IS PERFECT WHEN HIS SOUL HAS ALL ITS FACULTIES, AND HIS BODY ALL ITS SENSES AND MEMBERS. THE PERFECTION OF QUALITIES CONSISTS IN THE RESULTANT OF THE GOOD QUALITIES, WHICH CAN BELONG TO THIS NATURE: THIS A MAN HAS, WHEN HE POSSESSES ALL THE QUALITIES OF BODY AND SOUL, WHICH IS NATURALLY POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO POSSESS. THE PERFECTION OF PURPOSE CONSISTS IN THE ATTAINMENT OF ITS END: TH^uXS, A WATCH IS PERFECT, IF IT FULFILLS ITS PURPOSE OF KEEPING ACURATE TIME: AND A MAN IS PERFECT, WHEN HE ATTAINS HIS LAST END WHICH IS GOD, HIS MORAL PERFECTION, THE PERFECTION OF HIS BEATITUDE.

THE TAKING OF YOUR VOWS HAS PLACED YOU IN A STATE, IN WHICH YOU HAVE THE OBLIGATION OF TENDING TOWARDS PERFECTION. YOU ARE NOT, LIKE THE BISHOPS, IN THE STATE OF PERFECTION, ALREADY ACQUIRED. UNLIKE THE BISHOPS YOU ARE NOT PERMANENTLY ESTABLISHED IN A POSITION, WHICH OBLIGES IRREVOCABLY TO THE GUARDIANSHIP AND CARE OF THE FLOCK OF CHRIST.: BUT YOU PLACED YOURSELVES VOLUNTARILY IN THE STATE OF PERFECTION TO BE ACQUIRED. ONLY TO SIMON, SON OF JOHN, AFTER AN AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER THRICE REPEATED, THE LORD SAID "FEED MY LAMBS. FEED MY SHEEP." TO YOU RELIGIOUS, THE LORD SAYS ONLY "IF THOU WILL BE PERFECT, GO, SELL WHAT THOU