

The doubtful Residence no proof can bring
Against the plain existence of the thing.

Because *Philosophers* may disagree,
If Sight b' emission or reception be,
Shall it be thence inferr'd, I do not see?

But you require an Answer positive,
Which yet, when I demand, you dare not give;
For Fallacies in Universals live.

I then affirm that this unfailing Guide
In Pope and general Councils must reside;
Both lawful, both combin'd: what one decrees
By numerous Votes, the other Ratifies:

On this undoubted Sense the Church relies.
'Tis true, some Doctors in a scantier space,
I mean, in each apart, contract the Place.

Some, who to greater length extend the Line,
The Church's after-acceptation join.

This last Circumference appears too wide;
The Church diffus'd is by the Council ty'd;
As Members, by their Representatives

Oblig'd to Laws, which Prince and Senate gives,
Thus some contract, and some enlarge the Space;

In Pope and Council who denies the place,
Assisted from above with God's unfailing Grace?

Those Canons all the needful Points contain;
Their Sense so obvious, and their Words so plain,
That no Disputes about the doubtful Text
Have hitherto the lab'ring World perplex'd.

If any should in after-times appear, [clear:
New Councils must be call'd, to make the meaning
Because in them the Pow'r supreme resides;
And all the Promises are to the Guides.

This may be taught with sound and safe Defence:
But mark how sandy is your own Pretence,