

them by their own Judgment, and not according to the sense of the Holy-Ghost, speaking and teaching by the Church. (Origen, Hom. 2. in Ezech. Tom. 3. pag. 362).

Recollect, says St. Hilary, that there is not one of the heretics who does not now impudently assert that all his blasphemies are derived from the Scriptures. They all urge the Scriptures without the right knowledge of them, and without faith talk about their faith ; for it is not by reading, but by comprehending their meaning, that the Scriptures should be weighed. (Ad Constans. Lib. 2. pag. 1227).

St. Ephrem says : *Heretics, wishing to give strength to their error, endeavour to extract passages from the Scriptures by which they pervert the minds of those who listen to them.* And St. Irenæus, in his book, against heretics, cap. 8. pag. 35. says : *such being their doctrines, which the Prophets never preached, nor Christ taught, nor the Apostles delivered, they boast their own superior knowledge of Scripture, and attempt to make it seem credible, forming, as it were, a rope of sand by adducing some passages from the sayings of the Prophets, or of Christ, or of his Apostles, but in such manner as to violate the order of the Sacred Writings, and, as far as in them lies, dissolve the whole connexion of truth.*

*They appeal to the Scripture with such frontless impudence, that they make impressions upon some ; in the course of their disputes they tire out the strong, entrap the feeble, and fill the minds of ordinary persons with great perplexity. We therefore establish, as a fixed principle, that Heretics should not be allowed to dispute from Scripture ; for if they contend with these weapons, we should first enquire to whom these Scriptures belong, lest we should allow these men to usurp that treasure, to which they have neither right nor pretensions.* (Tertullian).