

nigh to this star, and enlighten and warm yourselves with the holy love of the Apostles, for I tell you that this preaching of the Apostles is a more immediate Word of God than the preaching of the greatest and best of the Popes who have ever lived.

"When they talk of the *spoken* Word, I ask, Does, then, the word of the Bishop of Rome reach us in any other than a *written* form? Are the 'notes' on Holy Scripture *spoken* for the masses, or do not they also get into the hands of the faithful as *written* documents? Unless the faithful may receive the written Word, we are ever in the presence of the same difficulties.

"The second portion of the New Testament is distinguished by *this* peculiarity—the sacred writers have striven to reproduce the discourses of our Lord in their truest expression, as far as they could remember them,\* and with complete self-renunciation. Draw near to this teaching; it is as though we were entering our Father's house, and listening to our Father's voice. All those wondrous and affecting words of Jesus Christ in the Sermon on the Mount are addressed directly to each one of you, and no one has the right to step between you and them, and prevent you from hearing for yourselves these words of Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount.

"Here the sin of prohibiting the reading of the Bible appears in a still stronger light. What can the reason be which induces Rome to seek to sever believers from the Holy Scriptures? Cardinal Wiseman has betrayed the secret. He says the prohibition of the reading of the Scripture is the *stronghold of the Church's unity*. Let the faithful but read the Scriptures, and the government of the Church will tumble to pieces, insubordination will enter, and self-sufficiency and pride take the place of humility and docility. No doubt *this* unity of the Church, which denies the true Church of Jesus Christ, this despotic unity would be destroyed. For when the Pope maintains that, as Christ's vicar on earth, he has the right of wearing the triple crown, of causing himself to be borne about by his fellow-men, then most assuredly he cannot allow the faithful to read the Scriptures, with which *such* a vicarship is absolutely incompatible. When the Pope proclaims that, as the vicar of Jesus Christ, he is the judge of all men upon earth, then assuredly the faithful may not read that Christ said, 'I came not to judge the world, but to save the world'—to seek and to save that which was lost. The Pope has as little right to judge a Christian brother, as that brother has the right, supposing him to have recognized in the Pope a brother, to judge him. The words 'Judge not, that ye be not judged' hold good for the Pope as for everybody else. God only sees, and God alone has the right to judge what transpires in the inmost soul of man. When the Scriptures tell us that the bond between man and God is without human mediation, that it is the Father who draws to the Son; and when Paul, placing himself on this foundation, exclaims 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' and then, after having enumerated all the elements which weaken and destroy this bond, declares triumphantly, "In all these things we are more than conquerors, through Him that loved us"—when *that* can be read in the Holy Scriptures, and the Pope maintains that *he* can separate us from the love of Christ by a malodictory Bull, then certainly he does well in prohibiting the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

"This, then, is what I say, Whenever the voice of the Lord is heard, approach and listen to that voice. When we look for help from a fellow-man, merely to see him does not inspire us with full assurance. But when we hear his voice, borne by the love of an upright heart, then our hope becomes confidence, and we shout for joy. For this reason John the Baptist, regarding himself as the bridegroom's *friend*, cried, 'The friend of the bridegroom rejoiceth greatly, because of the bridegroom's voice.' But we are the Lord's *bride*; what then must the joy of the bride be when she hears His voice, the voice of her own Bridegroom?

\* "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Tim. iii. 16. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Pet. i. 21.