

A. In order to give the faithful a model and a protector. They should celebrate the feast of their patron with great piety and a sincere desire to walk in his footsteps.

CHAPTER LIV.

General Summary.—Religion in time and in eternity.

Q. How should we consider religion?

A. 1st, as a grand fact, which embraces all time, explains all things, and to which all things refer; 2d, as an immense benefit and the source of all the blessings we enjoy.

Q. How is religion the source of all the blessings we enjoy?

A. Because it is to her we owe our lights, virtues, salutary institutions, good laws, the saints, and all those men who have really been benefactors to their fellow men.

Q. What must we conclude from this?

A. We must conclude that religion is divine; for a religion which makes men better, must be good; but it is good only because it is true; and true only because it is divine. Religion, therefore, which alone makes men better, and which alone has civilised them, is from God, and therefore divine.

Q. What religion is it that alone has rendered men better and alone has civilised them?

A. The only religion which has rendered men better and civilised them, is the Catholic religion, to the exclusion of Arians, Mahometans, Protestants and philosophers; the Catholic religion, therefore, alone is good, alone divine.

Q. What does religion propose to herself in civilising nations?

A. In civilising them, that is, rendering them better, more enlightened, and more happy, religion pro-