

lay up for future necessity. Barnabas was not a clergyman, nor were his brethren in Jerusalem so close-handed and gain-greedy but what he could trust their fraternal cordiality and liberality to assist him whenever his needs called for assistance. Brother Tillson! whether does the spirit of your inference or the inference now named seem more like the Jerusalem spirit?

D. O.

DO CATHOLICS READ THE BIBLE?

Last October a friend sent to the office of the *Christian Banner* a circular issued at Hamilton city by the Catholics, in which there appears a very Jesuit-like attempt to make the less informed believe that Papal Rome sanctions the reading of the scriptures by the common people. This document we could not publish at an earlier date, but it is given to our readers this month accompanied by a criticising remark or two. Let the circular first tell its own story. Read—read—read :

Hamilton, 1st July, 1853.

“As it is at present quite a common, nay, an every day charge made by the enemies of the Catholic Church, to represent her as hostile to the reading of the Sacred Scriptures, and as the charge is so diligently persevered in from the Protestant Pulpit, with such obstinacy and malignity, that a great majority of our Protestant fellow Citizens actually believe it to be true : Now, in order to shew the utter falsehood of such a charge, it is only necessary to refer the impartial reader to the letter of POPE PIUS. Sixth, to the Archbishop of Florence, of which the following is a copy :—

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolica! Benediction :—

At a time that a vast number of bad books which most grossly attack the Catholic Religion are circulated even among the unlearned to the great destruction of Souls, you judge exceedingly well that the faithful should be *excited to the reading of the Holy Scriptures*, for those are the most abundant sources which ought to be left open to every one to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine, to eradicate the errors which are so widely disseminated in these corrupt times. This you have seasonably effected as you declare, by publishing the Sacred Writings in the language of your Country, suitable to every one's capacity, especially when you show and set forth that you have added explanatory notes, which being extracted from the Holy Fathers, preclude every possible danger of abuse. Thus you have not swerved either from the laws of the congregation of the Index, or from the Constitution published on the subject by Benedict XIV, that Immortal Pope our predecessor in the Pontificate, and formerly when we held a place near his person, our excellent master in Ecclesiastical learning, circumstances which we mention as honorable to us. We therefore applaud your eminent learning joined with your extraordinary piety, and we return you our due acknowledgement for