

and thus founded — the whole edifice of the truth stands firm « built on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Head corner-stone. »

Private judgment or the protestant principle is the opposite to this. With them, it is as if the judges who had to decide in the case supposed above, were to ignore all evidence taken on the spot, all testimony of eye-witnesses and persons in the confidence of the testator, who could depose as to his actual intention, and were to take the letter of the will, interpreting it over in England to the best of their ability, as if the judges, I say, were to rule in opposition to the original evidence and testimony from the beginning, that a new construction was to be placed upon it. But even so, they could not insist that such was the only possible meaning of the words, nor could they deny, that the possession and prescription of years was against them. But here, in fact, our parallel must stop ; for we cannot even imagine a set of lawyers, attempting to decide any legal question, by the method which Protestants take to decide disputed texts of Scripture. — Is then, the truth of God less valuable than a few acres of land ? Is it a greater crime to violate truth in regard to the rights of our fellow-men, than to violate the truth of God, and « take away from or add to the words of God Himself ? »

— Good ! Sir, very good ! I have no hesitation in saying. But one thing strikes me, and that is, if once we admit any authority besides the Scriptures we shall never know where to stop, all this notion of tradition, as I suppose you call it. is new to me. I have found the Bible, on which our Church grounds her teaching, quite sufficient for me, and so has my Church and the old Church of England before her.

The reason, I think, of your innate prejudice against holy tradition arises from your forgetting that the certainty of revelation does not depend on its being written, but on the messenger being incapable of error or deceit. We all know, of course, that Christ wrote nothing, and that all our knowledge as to the truth and inspiration of the New Testament rests on the tradition, which comes to us from the Apostles, that these documents are true and inspired. But how do we know that