

MODERN SCIENCE AND

Their opinions should be valuable, as three of them were bishops and leaders of the thought of their age. Irenæus by his writings exercised an abiding influence on the early church. He appeals to tradition as an authority and contends for the unity of the Catholic church. He had studied at the feet of the old presbyters, who in their old age could still tell something about the Apostles. Origen was a clear thinker and a voluminous writer, and he made a special study of the doctrines of religion. In the history of the early church there is no name nobler than his, and he lived not far from its source, yet he classes James and Jude and John III. and Peter as doubtful.

The Council of Hippo, in A.D. 393, with the great St. Augustine at their head, met to discuss and arrange the canon. By a majority of votes they decided that the books of Wisdom and Ecclesiasticus, of Tobit and Judith, and the two books of the Maccabees should be included in the inspired Bible. The Council of Carthage met four years afterwards and confirmed the decision of the Fathers at Hippo. This canon, authorized by the two Councils, remained as the unalterable, infallible and inspired word of God for one thousand years. It was again unanimously confirmed by the Holy Council of Trent in A.D. 1546. It still remains the Bible of the Roman Catholic Church. When Luther left the mother Church he revised the Bible, but retained nearly all the books which Protestants call Apocryphal or doubtful, such as Tobit and Judith