

operation ever since the creation before they were discovered by Sir *Isaac Newton*, and other philosophers?—The Continent of America was probably co-eval with the world, yet who was certain of its existence until *Columbus* pointed out the way?—If the errors of Popery continued undetected during whole centuries of ignorance, was truth excluded by prescription?

But which religion, I should be glad to know, is most open to the charge of novelty at all; the Protestant persuasion which takes for its *only rule and guide the Holy Scripture*, the word of Christ and his Apostles, and consequently is as old as Christianity itself, or the Romish Church, which has derived most of its doctrines from the decrees of Popes, and the decisions of Councils, in times long subsequent, to those of Christ and the Apostles? The precise time when each of these distinguishing tenets of that Church were first introduced, their gradual Progress, and final establishment, have been distinctly traced, and correctly ascertained. Most of them were subsequent to the first public establishment of Christianity by Constantine, above three hundred years after the death of our Saviour. From this time new doctrines, and new corruptions encreased in a regular gradation to the completion of the enormous fabric by the Council of Trent.

These doctrines were therefore rejected by the protestants at the reformation, because upon diligent enquiry, and the light of learning which began