

scrutinize, and thoroughly to examine into these promises, *without figure*, and, such as they are, I should not be able to explain them, and you would not be able to comprehend them. It is upon this account that images and comparisons, and *sensible figures*, are most desirably and most advantageously to be used, in order that we may the more easily understand, comprehend, and retain any thing, so imaged, in our minds. By such aids we are also the better able to avert the tempting snares of the devil, who, by fine thoughts, and subtle questions, seeks to lead us from the natural meaning of words, which the most simple person easily and clearly understands on beholding a holy image, or a holy picture.

Luther's Sermons for domestic devotion; Part for Summer.
Edition of Donat Richzenhain, A.D., 1572.

ON THE CHURCH OF ROME.

There can be no doubt that the Church of Rome is the first in rank and dignity above all other churches; in Rome have been Saint Peter, Saint Paul, and forty-six Popes; in Rome have many thousand martyrs shed their blood, that the world and hell might be conquered. Whence it is easily comprehended why God gives to Rome His most particular care.

Luther, vol. i. p. 163. Jena.

We admit that the papacy possesses the greatest number of the blessings of Christianity, that it even possesses them all, and that it is from the papacy *we derive them*. We admit that the papacy has the true Holy Scripture, the true baptism, the true holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, the true keys for the remission of sins, the true preaching of the Gospel, the true catechism of Faith, *namely*, the Ten Commandments of God, the Creed, the Pater, &c.

I say that under the Pope are to be found the true Christians, the true chosen flock, and numbers of pious and great saints.

If, therefore, true Christianity is to be found under the papacy, it must, of course, follow, that it is the real Body, composed of the real members of Jesus Christ, and, if it be His Body, it has also His Spirit, His Faith, His Baptism, His Sacraments, His Keys, His Evangelical Preaching, His Prayer, His Scripture, and all that belongs to Christianity.

Luther, vol. iv. p. 320. Jena.

Written by Luther, in the year 1523, and consequently eleven years after the Reformation!

It is true that the papists have the Word of God, and the apostolic priesthood, and that from them we have received the Holy Scriptures, Baptism, the Sacraments, and *preaching*. What

could we know of all those things if we had not received them from the papists? Whence it follows that faith, the Christian Church, and the Holy Ghost, ought to be found with them.

Luther vol. viii. p. 160. Jena.

From a sermon, on chap. xvi. of St. John, preached in the year 1538, that is to say, twenty-one years after the commencement of the Reformation!

ON THE INFALLIBILITY OF THE CHURCH.

The holy Church cannot and wishes not to tolerate any error, or any false doctrine. But she has to preach the all-holy and all-true Word of God, that is to say, the Word of God only. The Church should teach the divine word, and the all-pure faith, free from error, and could it be otherwise since the Church is the organ of God? If God cannot deceive, neither *can* the Church deceive.

It therefore consequently follows that the Church teaches *only* the divine Word of God, and that she is, in truth, that which she ought to be, namely, the pillar and the ground of *Truth*, built upon the holy and immoveable rock, where she really is, what, with reason she is called, **INFALLIBLE!** because the Word of God which she teaches *is* **INFALLIBLE!**

Luther, vol. vii p. 416, b. p. 417, a. p. 418.

Written in the year 1541, that is to say, five years before his death.

THE WOODEN CROSS.

A RELIGIOUS TALE.

Chapter 3.

[Continued.]

Madam de Linden, whose health was greatly impaired by the death of her husband, and other cares, fell sick, and speedily foresaw that her last hour was approaching. As soon as Sophy learned the illness of her benefactress, she felt it her duty to attend her with the utmost care. She hardly ever quitted the bedside, and rendered her every service that could possibly afford her comfort. She flattered herself with the hope that this illness would not end unfavourably, for she trembled at the idea of losing her dearest friend upon earth. A daughter could not lavish more tenderness on her mother, than Sophy did on her beloved mistress. She watched beside her bed like a guardian angel, and spent whole nights with her without feeling the least fatigue. Madam de Linden was so pleased with her attentions, that she wished to take nothing, except from the hands of Sophy.

However the lady's health grew worse and worse, and every symptom shewed that sooner or later she would fall a victim to the violence of the disease. Alarming appearances had already frozen