

can we call her the ancient apostolic church? Not one of these offices, nor dogmas is mentioned in the New Testament. Hear Du Pin on this point. In exposing the imposition practiced by an effort, so late as the ninth century, to foist into the history of the Church certain pretended decrees and writings of those called the first Popes; Du Pin, an authentic Roman Catholic historian, proves their decrees and writings to be spurious, because, in them there are numerous allusions to offices, and customs not yet existing in the times referred to.

“ *Of False Decretals attributed to the first Popes.*”

The following proves them spurious :

1. “ The second Epistle of St. Clement directed to St. James, speaks of the *Ostiarii* or *Door Keepers*, *Arch-deacons*, and other ecclesiastical officers, that were not then introduced into the Church.”

2. “ This letter mentions *sub-deacons* : an order not then established in the Church.” p. 584.

3. “ In the first Epistle attributed to St. *Siclus*, he is called an *Arch-bishop*, a word not used in his time.”

4. “ The second attributed to the same Pope, mentions consecrated vessels, appeals to *Rome*, the grandeur of that Church. 'Tis there pretended, that all bishops wait for the Pope's decision, and are instructed by his letters : modes of speaking never used by the first bishops of Rome.”

5. “ The Epistle attributed to *Telesphorus*, calls him an *Arch-bishop* ; a name unknown in the first ages ;”

6. “ There is a decree in it to enjoin three masses of our Saviour's nativity, a custom not so ancient.”

7. “ We find several passages in the letter attributed to *Anicetus*, which don't agree with the time of that Pope ; as for instance, what is there laid down concerning the *ordinations of bishops*, sacerdotal *Tonsure*, *Arch-bishops* and *primates*, which were not instituted till long after ; besides many things of the same nature.” p. 585.

“ *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*”—*Hor.*

“ The times are changed, and we are changed in them.”

How now can we suppose that this church of the nineteenth century, with so many appendages, is the apostolic church—the only original, primitive, universal institution of Christ ?

But she glories in the name of mother and mistress of all churches throughout the world. This astonishes me still more ; for, with the Bible in his hand and history before him, who can stand up and say, that this church ever was the mother and mistress of all churches ?

The most ancient Catholic Church was the Hebrew. She was the mother, though not the *mistress* of all churches : for the