

exactly has a learned Bishop understood and expressed it, in his speech before the late Œcumenical Council, at Rome, wherein he cites the authority of the most eminent Fathers of antiquity, as opponents of the Roman interpretation of the sentence, and concludes in these words :—

“The holy Fathers, in the famous passage, “Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,” never understood that that the Church was built on Peter, *super Petrum*, but on the rock, *super petram*.”—*Strossmeyer*.

But I will now advert to something a thousand times of higher interest than any dry grammatical argument, in the light of which the supremacy of Peter and of all Roman Pontiffs must be thrown into the veriest obscurity. It is very remarkable that in perfect coincidence with the words recorded by St. Matthew,—“and on this rock I will build my Church.” The true God is in numerous places in the Old Testament designated a Rock. In Deuteronomy xxxii, He is four times referred to under that epithet, *e. g.*, “Jesurun forsook the God which made him, and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation. Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten the God that formed thee.” This affirmation is made in so many instances, it would take several pages to give the quotations. Passing, therefore over the numberless verses which speak to this import, come we to St. Peter and St. Paul. The former Apostle, who, as received in the Church of Rome, must be a paramount authority with Archbishop Lynch, will, I fear, if allowed to speak for himself, give small encouragement to his infallible successors’ pretensions, nor will the language which he addressed to the Jewish con-