

them; and they, by their emissaries or servants, discover and obtain them, whether by purchase or otherwise, and forthwith put them into circulation, the coins being known to be of the genuine currency of the empire, and similar to the other coins in use, but all coined in the reign of a sovereign who ruled many years previous. Suppose, further, that the same society, many years after, should pass a resolution, or by any other way decide that the gold out of which the coins were made was first discovered and purified by the company, and that the impressions on the coin, and everything relating to their coinage in the royal mint, and putting them into circulation as a legal currency, were given and ordered solely under the authority of the company. Such pretences would, of course, at once be scorned and condemned as false and absurd. Or, by way of further illustration as to this unfounded Papal claim regarding the Scriptures, suppose the corporation of London, the largest in the kingdom, should go to work, and, in one way or another, obtain as many as possible of the most ancient copies of the oldest acts of Parliament in force relating to the corporations generally throughout the kingdom; and suppose that the said London corporation should torture and pervert some clause in one of such old acts, so as to apply it to their corporation, and they should thereupon pass a resolution that all those laws derived their validity and binding authority solely from their corporate sanction and decision. As in the other supposed case, such a pretended right or power would at once be denounced as false and arrogant.

Equally unfounded is the assertion of the Papal Church regarding her right to decide infallibly as to the *canon* and *inspiration* of Scripture, or on any other subject. That learned men in the Roman Church, in different ages, have diligently sought after and obtained, in various countries, ancient manuscripts and copies of the sacred Scriptures, and have industriously collated, compared, and translated them; and that the same Church has treasured up and retains very many of those ancient and authen-