

"I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my Church." MAT. XVI. 18.

---

THERE is not, perhaps, in the whole volume of Inspiration, a passage, which has been so grossly perverted, and upon which men have attempted to base so many dangerous and delusive errors, as that from which I have selected the text. I need scarcely tell you, Brethren, that it is the principal, I might almost say, the only passage of Scripture adduced by the Church of Rome, in support of the false and presumptuous system, which she has devised and propagated under the name of Christianity. For, although she does occasionally select here and there from the written Word a text, or a portion of a text, and endeavor to apply it to some particular dogma which she has first invented; yet upon her own confession, her fundamental doctrines—the Supremacy of the Pope, and the Infallibility of the Church, upon the truth or falsehood of which all her other doctrines, not found in the Scriptures, must be received or rejected—are mainly, if not entirely, based upon this solitary passage.

I am aware, Brethren, that many other subjects of a different nature and equally as edifying to us, might be taken up for our brief consideration on the Lord's day; yet this has now been thrust upon our attention from a quarter which renders it painfully prominent, and, in a measure, compels us to notice it: and since we are assured in Holy Writ, that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is *profitable for doctrine, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished* unto all good works," it is expedient, I was going to say necessary, that we should in these days occasionally examine it with reference to some of the principal doctrines of that corrupt and delusive system, the Church of Rome.