

and by strength, and will possess it entirely. Who would not be struck with such a fact accomplished by the Bible? Who would not see in it a proof of their mission and a source of their power? I pass from the historical to the moral order. Since it has existed, and everywhere it exists, humanity is in presence of great problems, which concern it and which pre-occupy it passionately. What are we? Whence do we come? Where are we going? What do our nature and destiny signify? These are questions which naturally and invincibly arise in the human mind. Our sacred books alone have for these questions precise, positive, and striking solutions; they alone explain to man his present state, and reveal to him that of the future. On the one hand, the present and constant action of God in the world; and on the other, the satisfaction of the moral and imperious requirements of humanity. That is what the Bible is, and what it effects—that is why it is only necessary to be spread abroad, and to be kept constantly before the eyes of man, to assure its complete empire."

THE ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE.

An astonishing feature of the word of God is, notwithstanding the time at which its compositions were written, and the multitude of the topics to which it alludes, there is not one physical error—not one assertion or allusion disproved by the progress of modern science. None of those mistakes which the science of each succeeding age discovered in the books of the preceding; above all, none of those absurdities which modern astronomy indicates in such great numbers in the writings of the ancients; in their sacred codes, in their philosophy, and the finest pages of the fathers of the Church, none of these errors are to be found in any of our books. Nothing there will ever contradict that which, after so many ages, the investigations of the learned world have been able to reveal to us on the state of our globe, or that of the heavens. Peruse with care our Scriptures from one end to the other, to find there such spots; and whilst you apply yourselves to this examination, remember that it is a book which speaks of everything, which describes nature, which recites its creation, which tells us of the writer, of the atmosphere, of the mountains, of the valleys, of the animals, and of the plants. It is a book which teaches us of the first revolutions of the world, and which foretells its last. It recounts them in the circumstantial language of history, it extols them in the sublimest strains of poetry, and it chants the charms of glowing songs. It is a book that is full of oriental rapture, elevation, variety and boldness. It is a book that speaks of the heavenly and invisible world, whilst it also speaks of the earth and things visible. It is a book which nearly fifty writers of every degree of cultivation, of every state, of every condition, and living through the course of fifteen hundred years, have concurred to make. It is a book which was written in the centre of Asia, in the sands of Arabia, and in the deserts of Judea; in the court of the temple of the Jews, in the schools of the prophets of Bethel and Jericho, in the sumptuous palaces of Babylon, and on the idolatrous banks of Chebar, and finally, in the centre of western civilization, in the midst of polytheism and its idols, and in the bosom of pantheism and its sad philosophy. It is a book whose first writer had been for years a pupil of the magicians of Egypt; in whose opinion the sun, the stars, and the elements were endowed with intelligence and governed the world. It is a book whose first writer preceded, by more than nine hundred years, the most ancient philosophers of ancient Greece and Asia. It is a book which carries its narrations to the hierarchies of angels; even to the most distant epochs of the future, and the glorious scenes of the last day. Well, search among its 66 books, its 1,189 chapters, and 31,713 verses, search for one of the thousand errors which the ancients and moderns committed when they speak of the heavens, of the earth, of their revolutions, of their elements,—search, but you will find none.