

Christian Church. Although it is here admitted, as stated by Mr. Maturin, that there were, in the early age of the Churches, *doubts*, by some, as to the genuine and inspired character of some of the smaller Scripture books—namely: the Epistle of James, second of Peter, second and third of John, and that of Jude—yet all these, as well as the Book of Revelation, were, from the very first, held by many others, in all the Churches, to be of that inspired authority; and, at comparatively early periods, were universally received, and ever after held, as inspired writings. Moreover, what is of the utmost importance in this discussion, and establishes the matter against the Roman pretension, is the undeniable fact that the whole of our New Testament Scriptures were received and held as genuine, in all the Churches, long *before* the Popedom arose, and the Church at Rome succeeded in bringing the Western Churches, generally, under its influence and power. Any decision or act of that Church, therefore, as to the reception and inspired character of those Scriptures, subsequent to her attaining that power, may well be considered as quite superfluous, and merely a work of supererogation. Even the Roman Church will not be so bold and absurd as to say that if those Scriptures, when made, were not of an inspired character, her subsequent decision could or *did* infuse into them that inspiration. Moreover, the Asiatic and some of the European Churches who belong to the Greek communion have ever held the same Scriptures as ours, and they have never acknowledged the primacy claimed by Rome, or submitted to her rule

Here let us suppose a case to illustrate and show the arrogant and even absurd claim of the Roman Church as to her authoritative and infallible decision concerning the inspiration of the Scriptures. A society or a company of persons in a certain city of an empire come to the knowledge that there are certain *legal* gold coins of the empire deposited in several very ancient institutions, or concealed in places not generally known to contain