

Gospel. Nothing less, you admit, was required to enable the Apostles, or those of them who wrote the New Testament, to compose that sacred volume. We will see later that there is no proof that the New Testament contains all that our Lord commanded to be taught. But even if it were revealed to us that all that was necessary to be believed was there ; still any book may be, and is sure to be by some misunderstood, because of the natural tendency of human nature to fall into error. I ask you, for instance, what has been the origin of all heresies in ancient or modern times ?

— Well, I suppose they may be traced more or less to the different meanings which men have put upon the letter of the Scripture.

— Just so. Now let me ask you a somewhat personal question. You are an American citizen ; what are your judges wanted for ?

— Why, to interpret the laws, and give sentence when they are broken.

— But have not American citizens the legal code of the United States to go by ?

— Certainly, but no code can interpret itself, and no man is a safe interpreter in his own case, each would be likely to discover a sense favorable to his own opinion of what the law ought to be, and the diverse interpretations of the law would be without end.

— Then, admitting that the New Testament is the Christian written or statute law, it needs like every other code a common law or immemorial right as its basis, and the traditionary interpretation administered by the voice of a living judicial authority. These taken together produce law and order, but take away the principle of legal right, tradition and judicial authority, and society is dissolved in lawlessness. Have you anything to say against the force of my analogy ? But indeed it is much more than an analogy, it is a simple enunciation of the principle of law, without which no society of men would be possible.

— Well, no, the analogy holds as far as it goes, but why not make it more perfect, and say, as the judges are not infallible, and yet their decision is legal and binding on the community,