

Christ be judged by that word, for "whosoever goeth onward, and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son" 2 John: 9. What is true of individuals here must also be true of Churches. If it can be proved that a Church, as such, has not "abided" in the teaching of Christ, it has not of God, and, therefore, cannot be legitimately called "a Church of Christ."

1. The Church of Rome has departed from Christ by taking the Scriptures away from the people, proclaiming the Bible to be an obscure and dangerous book, not to be read except by special permission, under penalty of excommunication. (Bossuet, *Expos.* xviii. 19.) But the Divine Word says: "To the law and the testimony, if any one speaks not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Is. viii: 20. David did not think the Word dangerous, for he wrote: "The Words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." Ps. xii: 6. God "begets his people with the Word of Truth," Jas. i: 18. "His law is perfect" Ps. xix: 7. "It was written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15: 4, "and Paul commended his Christian friends, not to priests, but to God and the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all of them which are sanctified."

Some Protestants as well as many Roman Catholics boldly deny that Rome forbids the reading of Scripture. Only unauthorized translations are forbidden. But we want facts, and it is a fact that in Roman Catholic countries, and in the Province of Quebec in particular, the mass of the people have not the Word of God, are not encouraged to read and study it, and generally consider it a bad book, to be remorselessly cast into the fire, should it fall into their hands. If a man is seen reading the New Testament on the cars or in the boat, the whispers will go round that he is a "Suisse," a "Chiniquy," or an heretic. Try it, if you doubt it; we have and we know.

The word of God is Light, and it is a suspicious circumstance when a church, claiming to be of Christ, dares not let that light shine upon its teachings.

But 1. it is said, good and faithful priests preach the Gospel, and in this way the people become acquainted with all they need to know of saving truth, without risks of falling into error and schism.

Do they, indeed, preach the Gospel? The central figure of the Gospel is Christ, and Him crucified; and in every Catholic Church there is a crucifix over the altar, and pictures of Christ's passion, it may be thought that the Lamb of God offered up on Calvary is always prominently put before the minds as well as before the sight of the faithful.

Shall we do evil, that good may come? When did God abrogate the command given on Sinai: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,