

TO THE READER

Oftentimes you have heard that the science of religion is the most beautiful and most important of all sciences, even that it is the only one we cannot do without in this world. Perfectly true is that statement. It is, in fact, by religion that we are taught, first, the duties which we have to fulfil towards God, our neighbor and ourselves, and then the virtues we have to practise, the revealed truths we are bound to believe, and the means whereby all men are obliged to work out their salvation.

This religion, this doctrine which Jesus Christ brought down from heaven to men, you are greatly concerned to know, and you must even realize the soundness of its underlying foundations. You must even, as far as possible, enable yourself to defend your Catholic faith against the, ever recurring and ever sophistical onslaughts of heresy.

In these latter times above all, certain Protestant sects endeavour to flood the peaceful populations of our country with their garbled and falsified bibles, together with quantities of little tracts in which the teachings of the Church are wantonly misrepresented. All of these tracts are worthless productions, seething with hatred, gratuitous revilings and atrocious defamations.

The aim of this CATECHISM OF RELIGIOUS CONTROVERSY which is now presented to you, as a publication in several parts, is to remind you of the chief points of the Catholic doctrine, and supply you with arguments, or rather victorious retorts by means of which you can easily overthrow the foundations of that deadly Protestantism.