

NOVEMBER 1st.

### The Use of Latin in Church.

You see how the English language is known almost throughout the whole world. So it was with Latin at the time of the establishment of the Christian Church. The whole of the then known world was under Roman domination, and the language of Rome was heard and spoken everywhere.

As the Roman Empire supplied the basis on which the Church of Christ was erected, its provinces and dioceses, giving origin to the provinces and dioceses of the Church, so also the language of the Roman Empire became the language of the Christian Church.

It would have been considered as folly at the time of the coming of the Apostles to Rome, to predict that the Roman or Latin language would become a dead language, the knowledge of which was yet to be perpetuated by the Christian Religion, which everybody then despised.

Yet see what has happened: Latin was the language of the Pagan Empire, it was used in the worship of the false Gods, that is the devils; the Roman Empire constituted itself the enemy of the Christian Religion, which it tried to destroy by all possible means. But the Christian Religion has outlived the Roman Empire, and the language of that empire has become the sacred language of the Church of Christ.

This alone is a proof of the divine origin of the Christian or Catholic Church, and it is indeed a token of the wisdom of God, and of His vigilant Providence in guarding His Church, for while what we call *Living Languages* are undergoing continual changes, Latin remains always the same.

Old English or old French for an example, is so different from the English or French of to-day, as to make it impossible for most people to understand it without a special study, while Latin is as clear for us as it was for our forefathers of five or six centuries, even ten and fifteen centuries ago.

Is it not wonderful, to find throughout the whole world, after eighteen centuries the same language as it was in use throughout the Roman Empire at the time of Augustus?

Is it not wonderful, that while peoples and nations, kingdoms and empires, have succeeded one another, speaking so many different languages that have in turn undergone so many and essential changes, the Latin language has come from age to age, always the same, as a divinely ordained preserver of the immutable doctrines of the Church of Christ?

Suppose for a moment that Latin is taken away; what a confusion! how, for an instance will the Encyclicals of the Popes reach the Bishops, Clergy and faithful of the different nations, speaking so many different languages? While as it is written in Latin, and the Latin language