

From the Catholic Expositor.

INFALLIBILITY of the CHURCH

The infallibility of the Church! what, Ada, is not everything like infallibility exploded in this age! are there to be found men, in the nineteenth century, who can be endowed with the prerogative of infallibility! Do Catholics still inculcate this tenet, as essential to the church? They do, my friend, and we shall enter into the reasons which guide the Catholic community in this respect.

The age in which we live, is, I know, the age of wisdom: one which claims the dignity of being the most enlightened of all that have preceded it. On what essential ground this extraordinary claim reposes, I will leave to others the task of explaining. I will admit that astonishing inventions have burst on the world; that the sciences have been improved to an incredible degree: and that society has attained the utmost refinement of civilization. I will acknowledge that many of the civil institutions of past ages have grown too cumbersome and antiquated for the present day; and justly have they been removed to make room for others adapted to the genius, and according with the character, of a regenerated people. All this may be conceded, and if you choose, Ada, constitute the boast and glory of the nineteenth century.

But there is one institution that cannot be reformed: it has known no change; can admit of no improvement; is not subject to the decrepitude of age; and no less congenial to the habits and temper of the present, than it was to those of the primitive, era of Christianity. It is not the work of man: it has not been formed by human wisdom; it is not supported by human power. It is the master-piece of God's work—and like its Almighty author is unchangeable—everlasting: And this is the CHURCH. An edifice which has fixed its foundation on the rocks of the earth, and which rears its venerable head to the firmament of heaven. It is a mighty structure, reposing on two worlds—time and eternity. It towers sublime and solitary in its grandeur, infinitely above the loftiest works of human magnificence; sees men and their works pass away—and while the gloom of the grave, and of oblivion, covers the trophies of the world, the glittering of a thousand shields, and the pride of a thousand trophies irradiate and adorn the memory of its greatness. Infallible in its decisions, as it is immortal in its existence, it preserves unsullied the purity of faith contained in the charter delivered to the apostles.—The glorious and triumphant motto inscribed on its escutcheon: "I am with you always to the consummation of the world," could not be verified, if the church were not supported by its own infallibility.

This truth is reflected from every passage in the New Testament in which mention is made of the nature and institution of religion. It is grounded on the unanimous authority of the ancient fathers; and is strongly supported even by reason itself. My object now, is to examine each point separately, and develop them apart, that each may speak for itself, and all may con-

cur in the vindication and proof of this noble prerogative.

"Go teach all nations"—thus the Saviour said to his apostles, "and behold! while time shall last, I shall be with you." Many an age has passed away, since thus he promised them—But still the church exists; and ne'er shall fall.

The edifice upon a rock is built, Which, 'mid the storms of time and revolution, Shall e'er remain, reposing on the word Of its eternal author; while the hills Of the firm earth grow old—and the hoar rocks Of the deep ocean fall before the tempest. It shall endure, and flourish on forever.

ROYAL EXCHANGE, KING STREET,

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BY NELSON DEVEREUX.

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N. DEVEREUX.

Dec. 24, 1841.

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W. J. GILBERT

Hamilton, Sept. 15, 1841.

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Hamilton, Sept., 1841.

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Hamilton, Nov. 24, 1841.

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By **D. F. TEWKSBURY,**
September 15, 1841.

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