

with little or no apprehension of their future state. Whereas the true servants of God, in imitation of the apostles and other saints, have always led a life of mortification and self-denial, and have always strove to work out their salvation with fear and trembling.

12. Because the Protestant religion can afford us no certainty in matters of faith. Their church owns herself fallible even in fundamentals : since she only pretends to be part of the universal church, and every part or particular of her church, according to her principles, may fall into errors destructive to salvation. What security then can she give her followers, that she is not actually leading them on in the way of eternal damnation ? She has no infallible certainty of the scripture itself which she pretends to make her only rule faith : from whence can she pretend to have the certainty ? Not from the scripture itself, for this would be running round in a circle. Besides there is no part of scripture, that tell us what books are scripture, and what not : much less is there any part of scripture that assures us, that the English Protestant Bible, for example, is agreeable to what the prophets and apostles wrote so many ages ago ; or so much as one single word in it uncorrupted. If she appeal to tradition--this according to her principles, cannot ground a certain faith, since she makes the scripture alone the rule of faith. If she appeal to church authority, this she pretends is not infallible. What then must become of the infallibility of her faith, when she has no infallible certainty of the scripture, upon which alone she pretends to ground her faith ? Besides though she were infallibly certain of the scripture, being the word of God, it would avail her nothing ; except we were also infallibly certain that the scriptures are to be interpreted in her way : and this is an infallibility to which she neither can nor does pretend to lay any claim. And thus, after all her brags of "the pure word of God," her children have no other ground for their faith and religion, than her fallible interpretation of the word of God, opposite in many points to the interpretation of a church founded on that authority which she cannot pretend to.