

THE BIBLE.

AN INSTRUCTIVE AND ELOQUENT SERMON BY REV. FATHER
MILES, S. J, OF NEW ORLEANS.

The spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, he shall give testimony of me; and you shall give testimony because you are with me from the beginning. — *John xv: 26, 27.*

Our Blessed Redeemer is the intallible God and while on earth taught with the fullness of divine authority. He could then, without wronging us, command that we should accept his doctrines under forfeiture of salvation. But when the Son of God went back to Heaven, He must have left some means of perpetuating his doctrine, and extending the knowledge of it to mankind, for it were a blasphemy to say that goodness itself and essential justice could condemn us to endless torments because we fail to believe a doctrine, or put it into practice, on account of our ignorance as to its being a point of Revelation. This means of spreading the religion of Christ, and of acquiring knowledge of what he taught, is called the rule of faith. Catholics have always maintained this Rule of Faith to be the Church of the living God, commissioned by him to teach His religion throughout the world and protected from error by the promise which he has made to be with her all days even to the end of time. Outside the pale of holy Mother the Church, it is asserted, by those who believe in Christ, that

THE ONLY RULE OF FAITH IS THE BIBLE,

the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible. The Bible, for our separated brethren is self accrediting, and according to them, ought to be freely read, as well as freely interpreted. This question has of late become one of general interest, and found its way into the public prints. For some time past the newspapers, far and wide, have been airing certain theories of their own with regard to a new edition of the Word of God. At such moments it is the duty of Catholics to give an account of the faith within them, and hence this morning I propose to speak to you about the Bible. In language as plain as simple as may be I will show you that, without some living and infallible authority to explain it,

THE BIBLE, IN ITSELF, NEVER WAS, NOR CANNOT BE
appointed by Gd as the rule of Faith. At the outset, dearly