

Vulgate alone should be esteemed authentic in the public reading of Scripture, in disputations, in preaching, in expounding, and that no one should dare to reject it on any pretext whatever."

Thus decreed the last General Council held by Papists to be infallible. Not many years, however, after this authoritative decree, Pope Sextus V. found this Vulgate, approved by an infallible Council, so incorrect that he published a new edition. This edition was from twenty to twenty-five years in preparation under three infallible Popes, yet when it came to the light it was found to be teeming with errors; not less than two thousand were speedily discovered in it, and it was suppressed by the infallibility of Pope Gregory XIV.—After all this, in 1592 another edition was brought out (of course infallible like the rest) by Pope Clement VIII. Surely the infallibility that will stand all this knocking about must have a brazen constitution.

But at length we come to consider that circumstance which makes all the presumptuous pretensions of the Church of Rome fit subject of ridicule and contempt on account of their high sounding emptiness, or of righteous indignation on account of their being a deliberate fraud and imposition. The Church of Rome has never yet settled where her infallibility is to be found. The Italians say it is in the Pope—the French say it is in a General Council—others, again, say it is in a Pope and a Council united; and one of her eminent theologians says "that the Church has not chosen to settle the controversy." The Church of Rome has tried her hand at infallibility, and has failed. She has mistaken her trade. She has patronized error, praised murder, maligned virtue, and persecuted religion. She has contradicted the Bible—and she has contradicted herself. We may set Creed against Creed, Council against Council, Father against Father, Pope against Pope, Pope against Council and Council against Pope, doctor against doctor, section of Rome against section of Rome, until the diversity becomes so marvellous as to be surpassed in wonder only by the impudence of the men who can boast of the unity, infallibility, apostolicity and holiness of Rome!