

denouncing the papal de-  
 crees, &c.; so far from  
 Poitiers, Winchester,  
 decree of that held in  
 mat the concubinary

JOHN MILNER.

ETY of NEWCOTTAGE.

CHRIST. — Having, at  
 ed to your worthy pre-  
 society, completed the  
 posed upon me; I ad-  
 in common, as a slight  
 you, that to succeed in  
 and to follow the right  
 ered upon the present  
 revelation, with a dis-  
 owed for this purpose by  
 ng taken for granted the  
 appointed some rule or  
 hat this rule must be an  
 adapted to the capacities  
 I proceeded to shew  
 particular inspiration, is  
 ion has led numberless  
 Christ, into the depths of  
 y kind. I proved in the  
 or scripture, according to  
 g, is not that rule; be-  
 ties and situations of the  
 on of them not being able  
 ess to form a connected  
 nd, because innumerable  
 owing this presumptuous  
 eties, contradictions, and

, relicto errore, repetendam et  
 p. 138.

crimes, almost as numerous and flagrant as those of the  
 abovementioned fanatics. Finally, I demonstrated, that there  
 is a twofold word of God, the *unwritten* and the *written*;  
 that the former was appointed by Christ, and made use of by  
 the apostles, for converting nations; and that it was not  
 made void by the inspired epistles and gospels, which some  
 of the apostles and the evangelists addressed, for the most  
 part, to particular churches or individuals; that the Catholic  
 Church is the divinely commissioned *guardian* and *interpreter*  
 of the word of God in both its parts; and that, therefore, the  
 method appointed by Christ for learning what he has taught,  
 on the various articles of his religion, is to HEAR THE  
 CHURCH propounding them to us from the *whole* of his  
 rule. This method I have shewn continued to be pointed  
 out by the fathers and doctors of the Church, in constant suc-  
 cession, and that it is the only one which is adapted to the  
 circumstances of mankind in general; the only one which  
 leads to the peace and unity of the Christian Church; and  
 the only one which affords tranquillity and security to indi-  
 vidual Christians during life, and at the trying hour of their  
 dissolution.

At this point my labours might have ended, as the Catho-  
 lic Church alone follows the right rule, and the right rule  
 infallibly leads to the Catholic Church. But since bishop  
 Porteus and other Protestant controvertists raise cavils as to  
 which is the true Church; and whereas this is a question that  
 admits of a still more easy and more triumphant answer, than  
 that concerning the right rule of faith, I have made it the  
 subject of a second series of letters, with which I flatter my-  
 self the greater part of you are acquainted. In fact, no  
 inquiry is so easy to an attentive and upright Christian, as  
 that which leads to the discovery of the true Church of  
 Christ; because, on one hand, all Christians agree in their  
 common creed concerning the *characters* or *marks* which she  
 bears; and because, on the other hand, these marks are of  
 an exterior and splendid kind, such as require no extensive  
 learning or abilities, and little more than the use of our  
 senses and common reason to discern them. In short, among  
 the numerous and jarring societies of Christians (all pretend-  
 ing to have found out the truths of revelation), to ascertain  
 which is the true Church of Christ that infallibly possesses  
 them, we have only to observe which among them is dis-  
 tinctly ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, and APOSTOLICAL,  
 and the discovery is made. In treating of these characters  
 or marks, I said it was obvious to every beholder, that there