

(3.) He therefore that will be saved, must thus think of the Trinity."

*Qui vult ergo salvus esse, ita de Trinitate sentiat.*

(A). "This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved."

*Haec est fides Catholica, quam nisi quis fideliter firmiterque crediderit, salvus esse non poterit.*

It is needful in the first place, in considering this objection, to remember that the creed was written in Latin, and that therefore the English translation must be understood in the sense of the Latin original, which is obviously not nearly so harsh or so sweeping in its judgment upon erroneous belief as the English appears to be.

To make this clear to those unacquainted with Latin, a more literal translation may be given.

(1). "Whosoever wishes to be safe (or, in the way of salvation) before all things it is necessary," &c.

(3). "He therefore that will be safe let him thus think of the Trinity,

(4). "... Except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be in the way of salvation."

There still remains the 2nd clause, the strongest of all, which cannot be modified in this way, except, perhaps, by the omission of "every."

"Which faith, except one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly."

But even here, as it must be admitted that a man cannot keep what he has never had, it is clear that the reference is to those only who once held the true faith and not to those who have never had it clearly stated to them, or whose prejudices or early training have made them unable to understand and accept it.

The Bible, for example, declares that various classes of persons—murderers, drunkards, adulterers, liars—shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. Yet we would never presume to apply these warnings so as to decide upon the final state of any individual, without leaving room for God's merciful consideration of all the special circumstances of each case, the peculiar temptations by which each person is assailed, and the influence of his early training.

In the same way, when we repeat the Athanasian Creed, we do not for a moment say that everyone who does not understand and believe every detail of this creed shall perish—God forbid! We simply acknow-