

were real, in a sense of which, he, at least, had no experience, in a sense which, as he understood, in spite of himself, were wholly beyond the spirit of Protestantism, if not, indeed, absolutely incompatible with it. And the secret lay, — where? In submission to a Divine authority? Yes; but he also submitted, or so he honestly believed, to the Divine authority of God's Holy Word. To them, the voice of Living Church, teaching "as one sent from God," and, therefore, infallible, was as the Voice of God Himself. More, the "Romish doctrine" of Transubstantiation could inspire men like Bernard, or Thomas of Aquin, with a fervor of devotion to their Lord, and his Lord, such as, he knew, he could never hope to attain to, simply because the "individualism" of Protestant "private judgment" made humility such as theirs impossible.

But, from such a conclusion to "the conclusion of the whole matter," was a long and a difficult road to traverse. He admitted, more freely and willingly than he could, but a short while ago, have believed himself capable of doing, that "Romanists" were, not merely could be, "Christians," in the strictest, and most narrowly "Evangelical" sense of the term. Nor could he, any longer, persuade himself, as of old, that they were so "in spite of their errors," still less, that, as his sisters had once said of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, that "the devil always chooses the noblest characters to make them his most efficient agents." On the very contrary, these were manifestly men filled with the Spirit of God, friends and followers of the Lord Christ in the truest and most real meaning of the words, their very "errors," so far from lessening or even marring, their love and devotion to the Crucified One, seemed rather to make their faith more vivid, their devotion more intense, their love more deep, more fervent, more real and personal, their grasp of "things unseen" more firm and strong. No: Rome was and must be a "corrupt tree," and yet these fruits were good. If not, then was Satan, in very deed, transformed into an angel