

"Jesus said to him that they were to teach all days even unto the consummation of the world." Christ ascended into heaven, and the apostles carried out the direction of the Saviour, and they went out into the whole world, preaching everywhere, teaching all nations, and baptizing them and receiving them into the Church, and the Church was established all over the earth, and there was not a Bible thought of. Not a line of the New Testament, which contains all the doctrines of Christianity; seven years elapsed. the Church was established all over the known world, and not a line of the New Testament was written until St. Matthew wrote his Gospel, and this was nearly seven years after Christ had left this earth. Well, now, I ask my dear Protestant friends, were those Christians that lived within those seven years, between the writing of the Gospel of St. Matthew and the ascension of Christ into heaven, were they Christians? "Why," say my Protestant friends, "they were the very best of Christians; they were the first and best fruits of Christianity." How did those people know what they were to believe, or what they had to do in order to save their souls? Did they know it from the Bible? Why, no; for there was no Bible in these days. How, then, did they know it? They knew it precisely in the same way as you, my dear Catholics, know it now, and you know it from the teaching of the Church of God, and we have no other means of knowing. St. Mark wrote his Gospel ten years after Christ left this earth. St. Luke wrote his twenty-four years after Christ ascended into heaven. St. John wrote his Gospel sixty-three years after the ascension of Christ; and the Revelations of the Apocalypse, the last portions of the Bible, were written sixty-five years after Christ had left this