

of the Pope proclaiming this new dogma, and damning all those who would not believe it, one of my most intelligent and respectable farmers came to visit me, and put to me the following questions on the new articles of faith :

"Mr. Chiniquy, please tell me, have I correctly understood the letter from the Pope you read us last Sabbath? Does the Pope tell us in that letter that we can find this new dogma of the 'Immaculate Conception' in the Holy Scriptures, that it has been taught by the fathers, and that the Church has constantly believed it from the days of the Apostles?"

I answered: "Yes, my friend, the Pope tells us all those things in his letter which I read in the Church last Sabbath."

"But, sir, will you be so kind as to read to me the verses of the Holy Scriptures which are in favor of the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin Mary?"

"My dear friend, I answered, I am sorry to say that I have never found, in the Holy Scripture, a single word to tell us that Mary is immaculate; but I have found many words, and very clear words, which say the very contrary thing. For instance, the Holy Ghost, in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, v. 18. By the *offense of one*, judgment came upon *all* men to condemnation." This little but inexorable "ALL" includes the Virgin Mary in the condemnation and in the guilt. In the same Epistle to the Romans, chap. III, v. 22, 23, the Holy Ghost, speaking of the children of Adam—Israelites and Gentiles—says there is no difference, they have ALL sinned and come short of the glory of God! and in the verse 10 of the same chapter, the Holy Ghost, speaking of the Jews and Gentiles, says: "There is none righteous—no, not one!" And the Lord has never repealed in any part that I know of the Holy Scriptures, this awful "no—not one!"

"Now, please tell me the name of the Holy Fathers who have preached that we must believe in the Immaculate Conception, or be forever damned, if we do not believe in it?"

I answered to my parishioner: "I would have preferred, my dear friend, that you should have never come to put to me these questions; but as you ask me for the truth, I must tell you the truth. I have studied the fathers with a pretty good attention, but I have not yet found a single one of them who was of that opinion in any way."

"I hope," added the good farmer, "you will excuse me if I put to you another question on this subject. Perhaps you do not know it, but there is a great deal of feeling and talking about this new article of faith among us since last Sabbath;