

tiles, and diffusing far and near the knowledge of saving faith, before a single line of the New Testament was written." This lengthy sentence is, throughout, a mere play upon words. The larger half of the Bible was completed for four hundred years before Christ came. As to the 'church' being organized &c. &c. &c." "before a single line of the New Testament was written", the assertion is mere dust for the eyes of a credulous reader. From the very beginning our Lord constantly recognized the written Word of God as the one divine and authoritative standard of faith and duty, and supported its claims by appeals to its contents. That the apostles constantly used it in the same way wherever it was known, is the concurrent testimony of a multitude of passages. They were "mighty in the Scriptures". Often we read such statements as the following—varying in language, identical in fact: "And Paul *according to his custom* went in unto them, and for three Sabbath days he reasoned with them out of the Scriptures", Acts xvii. 2. Douay Version. This was at Thessalonica, a city of Macedonia. Wherever the Scriptures were found, and they were scattered more or less in every country in synagogues and private families, we read that the first christian Teachers invariably appealed to them, "convincing", or "persuading", or "reasoning" from them in favour of the doctrines of Christ.

As to the want of the New Testament among the Gentiles we have already seen how early and widely book after book of it was sent abroad. But, besides this, it is to be remembered that the Apostles may be said to have *spoken* the New Testament day by day; for the testimony of early ecclesiastical history tells us—and with self-evident correctness—that it is in reality only an abstract of their constant teaching, put, under inspired guidance, in writing, that all ages might have a permanent and uncorrupted standard and epitome of the Truth. They 'delivered that which they received'. Yet men under the immediate and copious inspiration of the Holy Spirit—who only repeated through human lips the words of the Holy Ghost—they, forsooth, had no New Testament with them!

But it is further "certain that the Primitive christians of the first century, including even the apostles and disciples themselves, never saw, never heard, never read the whole Bible." As to the Primitive Christians, we have seen already how immediately the want was supplied, even though they had direct revelations from heaven from the lips of the apostles, and miraculous gifts of wisdom, teaching, prophecy, &c., to instruct and establish them, till the spread of the Scriptures made such an extraordinary state of things unnecessary. As to the apostles and disciples themselves never having seen the whole Bible, it is altogether terrible to hear an Archbishop speak thus of men to whom Christ once and again revealed himself in the midst of his dazzling glory, or, as in the case of Peter, by a voice calling him by name from out the canopy of heaven, or, as in the case of Paul, who was caught up to the third heaven itself and heard the unspeakable words of paradise.

The next certainty is that "many pagan nations were converted to christianity without the Bible." We suppose our Micmacs are an example, or that

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