

asunder the narrow confines of the tomb, and called into life the mouldering ashes of the saint; a sound the most appalling that ever fell on human ear; a sound at which all nature, animate and inanimate, was moved to send forth one universal groan of anguish; that sound was the "Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani."—*Wilde's Narrative.*

(From the Catholic Herald)

THE USE AND ABUSE OF THE BIBLE.

Catholics have been frequently charged with hatred and opposition to the circulation of the Inspired Word, because they contend for a well regulated use of the Bible, and condemn the subjecting the deep mysteries of the Holy Volume to the unrestrained and unsound criticism of individual interpretation. Some there are, and, indeed, not a few, who either cannot, or will not, discover a difference between a judicious use of, and an open hostility to the Bible; who cannot estimate the importance of the warning of St. Peter, not to wrest the words of inspiration to our own destruction, and the commendation of St. Paul, to use them so as they may be "profitable to teach, to reprove, to correct, to instruct in justice." Experience has shown that it is almost impossible to enlighten the obtuse intellect of such persons, as to the possible existence of a medium between an unholy enmity to the Word of God, and the ultra-Protestant "dangerous, because pervertible, dogma: the Bible, and the Bible alone." Tell them that the Catholic church reverences the Word of God, and earnestly recommends it to her children; they will refer you to the Pope's letter, which ensures the Bible Societies; and what further proof can you ask for the opposition of Gregory XVI. to the Bible? Show them the letter of Pius VI. to the Archbishop of Florence, on his translation of the Bible, in which letter the Pope commends the zeal of the pious Archbishop, because he circulated the Holy Scriptures amongst his flock, and exhorted them to the reading of them, as an antidote against the "vast number of bad books, which grossly attack the Catholic religion;" "for," continues the letter, "the Scriptures are the most abundant sources, which ought to be left open to every one, to draw from them purity of morals and of doctrine, to eradicate the errors which are so widely disseminated in these corrupt times." Show them this letter or such like testimony, and they will, perchance, tell you that the Pope was a Jesuit, or—as the Editor of the '*Christian Intelligencer*' called Bishop Hughes—a *Dominican Jesuit*,* and that it was

only policy, and that he meant quite the contrary of what he expressed.

The following extracts, from the Sermon of the Rev. T. W. McCullough, M. A., Rector of Trinity Church, Wilmington, Del., may possibly convince the advocates of "the Bible and the Bible alone," that not Catholics alone condemn the abuse of the Word of God, whilst they vindicate its use but within the proper and profitable bounds which a wise restraint on the license of private interpretation mark out. Were the sentiments contained in the extracts expressed in the work of a Catholic, they would be paraded as a damning confirmation of the antagonism of Popery to the Bible.

"The Bible is in fact the exhaustless store from which all heretics and schismatics profess to derive their respective creeds. Not that these false and pernicious creeds are really in the Bible, properly interpreted and understood; for in this blessed and truthful book, there is neither false doctrine, nor connivance at schism. But the ignorance, the pride, the presumption, the irreverence, the superstition, the prejudice, the wilfulness, and the ambition, of vain, corrupt, and self-sufficient men, instigated too often by Satan, misunderstand, pervert, and abuse the Bible, and wrest its meaning, so as to make it speak and sanction what was never intended by God, or inspired writer—by prophet, or apostle. As the best gifts of Providence, treasured up in the exuberant bosom of Nature, and poured forth for the good of all, are often perverted to the destruction of the body; so the very volume of Truth, bearing the signature and seal of Jehovah, and containing for all the light of salvation, is perverted by wicked and deluded men to the ruin of the soul. The grossest and most barefaced heretics and impostors, pretend to admire, approve, believe, and be guided by, the Bible. It is a notorious fact that when a designing, ambitious and wicked impostor, enthusiast, or fanatic, wishes to conciliate the public favor, gain followers, and form a sect, or 'a Church,' he commences by artfully denouncing and scoffing at all ancient Creeds and Liturgies, and decrying—if he has ever heard of them—the early Christian Fathers, and showing his prowess in assaults upon the walls and bulwarks of the Church, and professing great liberality, and pretending—if he has no new revelation to proclaim—to take 'the Bible and the Bible alone,' as the Rule of his faith! Where, except those cases in which immediate inspiration, or new revelation, is claimed, will you find a Christian Sect, however gross or heretical, which does not profess to derive its creed from 'the Bible and the Bible alone,' and affect to be peculiarly devoted to the Bible? This dangerous, because pervertible, dogma, erroneously supposed

* We suppose it will be news to the *Intelligencer* to learn that no one before himself heard of a Dominican being a Jesuit, or a Jesuit a bishop!