

many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now, but when the spirit of truth is come, he shall teach you all truth." (John xvi.) They allege also the example of the apostles, who made a prohibition that the people should abstain from blood and things strangled. (Acts xv.) They allege the Sabbath changed into Sunday, the Lord's day, contrary to the Decalogue, as it appears; neither is there any example more boasted of than the changing of the Sabbath-day. Great, say they, is the power and authority of the Church, since it dispensed with one of the ten commandments.

But as touching this question our divines thus teach, that bishops have no power to decree and ordain any thing against the Gospel, as is showed above. The canon laws teach the same thing, (ix. dist.) Moreover it is contrary to Scripture to make traditions, or to exact obedience to them, that by that observance we may satisfy for sin, or deserve grace or righteousness. For thus the glory of the merit of Christ is injured, when by such observance we go about to deserve justification. Now it is evident, that because of this persuasion, traditions have grown almost to an infinite number in the Church; and the doctrine of faith, and righteousness of faith, in the meanwhile, hath been oppressed. For still more holy days were made, and fasting days commanded; new ceremonies, and new honouring of saints, were instituted. For the devisors and actors of such things thought to get remission of sins and justification by these works. So formerly penitential canons increased, of which we still see some remains in these satisfactions. Likewise the authors of traditions act contrary to the command of God, when they place sin in meats, days, and such like things; and burden the Church with the bondage of the law, as if there ought to be among Christians, for the meriting of righteousness, a worship of God like unto that of which we read in Leviticus, the ordering whereof God committed, as they say, to the apostles and bishops. And the pontiff's appear to have been deceived by the example of Moses's law: hence those burdens, that certain meats defile and pollute the conscience, and that it is deadly sin to omit and leave unsaid canonical hours; that fastings deserve