

the Catholic Church, endeavor to have, at least, some little plausibility in your bold averments; for, after all, I do not believe your congregation are so utterly ignorant of history as you seem to imagine, and some of them might undertake to contradict your "bold" statements, themselves, and this would be rather unpleasant for you, their "minister of truth."

But besides all this, if the Catholic Church wished to destroy the Bible, had she not a pretty fair opportunity to do so long before the Reformation was thought of? Was it not she, on the contrary, who preserved it? and was it not from her that the Reformers received it? Who, as an author before me asks, "kept it safe through all dangers; in the midst of conflagrations, wars, and the destructive torrents of barbarian incursion? Who copied it over and over again, before the art of printing? The Roman Catholic Church did all this; and yet flippant or dishonest writers still accuse her of having concealed this Book of Life from the people! But for her patient labor, vigilant watchfulness, and maternal solicitude, the Bible might have perished with thousands of other books; and still she was an enemy of this good book, and wished to keep it hidden under a bushel! She had choice selections from it read to her people on every Sunday and festival in the year, even according to the enforced avowal of our unscrupulous and romantic historian of the Reformation; still she wished to conceal this treasure from the people! A curious way of concealing it truly.

But did not Pope Paul IV., as the Rev. Mr. Stephenson boldly avers, put all the various editions in the modern languages, extant in the 16th century, in the *Index Expurgatorius*, not a single exception being made? He did not, Mr. Stephenson to the contrary notwithstanding; and the best proof that he did not is to be found in the fact, that the *Index Expurgatorius*, had no existence until Paul IV. was for some years dead and buried. The list of prohibited books, or the *Index*, was not drawn up until after the Council of Trent had closed its sessions in 1563, during the Pontificate of Pius IV; and the Congregation of the *Index* was not established until 1588, during the Pontificate of Pope, Sixtus V. How, then, could Paul IV put the various editions of the Bible, &c., in the *Index* in the year, Mr. Stephenson is so particular to mention, 1559? Mr. Stephenson is, evidently, a little too reckless in his "bold" averments.

But did not some Pope put the various editions of the Bible in the modern languages, "not a single exception being made," in the *Index*? Not that I have ever been able to discover; and, I think, the Rev. Mr. Stephenson will have a pretty difficult task to find good proof of it either. There is no evidence that any general restrictive law ever existed, previous to the Council of Trent, as to the reading of the Bible. Pius IV. did, indeed, after the close of the Council of Trent, impose restrictions of a temporary and local character on the indiscriminate reading of the Bible in the