

ian Church received the oracles of God, and who kept them and still keep them faithfully pure and uncorrupt, never admitted the Apocryphal books among the inspired Scriptures; and, secondly, because no part of the Christian Church ever admitted them, until they were declared to be inspired Scripture by the Romish Council of Trent, in the year 1546. In fact they are not so much as *mentioned* by any writer for several centuries after Christ.* This is why the Anglican Church, holding with the pure ancient Church, never has admitted the Apocryphal books into the canon of Scripture.

Nevertheless, let us look into this text from the second book of Maccabees. (The book professes to be an abridgment of another larger work, and the author modestly apologizes for not having done it better.) The passage is this. The author relates † that Judas Maccabeus, the Jewish General, when he went to bury the dead, after one of his battles “found under the coats of every one of them that had been killed things consecrated to the idols of the Jamnites,” and if so, these men must have died in the mortal sin of idolatry. Hereupon, Judas and all his men betook themselves to prayer and besought God that the sin might wholly be put out of remembrance.

“Besides that, noble Judas exhorted the people to keep themselves from sin, forasmuch as they saw before their eyes the things that came to pass for the sins of those that were slain. And when he had made a gathering throughout the company to the sum of two thousand drachms of silver he sent it to Jerusalem to offer a sin offering.”

This is the history; and if the writer had stopped here and only given us these facts, we should have understood that the prayers and offerings of Judas and his men were to beseech God not to punish the *living*, that is, the whole nation, for this sin of idolatry. But the compiler of the book goes on to say that Judas

* First by Origen, A. D. 220, who expressly says “The books of the Maccabees are out of the Canon,” Lib. vi. c. 25. p. 289.

† 2 Maccab. xii, 39-45.