

## STANDPOINT OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC ON RELIGION.

**I**NFALLIBILITY of the Pope and infallible authority of the Church. — Papal supremacy is Papal infallibility, it is not long ago since I read this bold assertion, and I deem it sound. Just allow me to resume the thread of our Church history. We have seen that Primacy alone gave jurisdiction to the Popes over all other Bishops in the world, — of which prerogative Rome stood in possession from time immemorial, which had been recognized by every Council from Sardica to Chalcedon, which we find witnessed to as existing in their day by St. Irenæus and St. Cyprian, which was never given by any Council, because it was before any General Council met since the days of the Apostles, which must therefore be presumed to have been a part of the Apostolic tradition.

How clearly do the words of St. Irenæus express this floating tradition of the Church as to the authority of *ruling* and *teaching* the whole Church which was believed to reside in the See of Peter. « With this Roman Church, on account of its superior headship, it is necessary that all Churches, that is, the faithful who are spread everywhere, should be in accordance. » — *Unity of doctrine with the Church of Rome was necessary* — this he lays down as a principle, but who could enforce this unity and make it not merely necessary in theory but in fact, unless the Roman Pontiff, as successor of St. Peter, had a coercive authority over the other Churches, and over each one of the faithful? And I would add, what could give the Roman Pontiff a moral right to enforce the doctrine of his Church upon others, and to suffer none to remain numbered amongst the faithful, who should diverge from it, unless to him was guaranteed by the Divine Founder of the Church, exemption from decay (indefectibility) in faith, and unerring (*infallibility*) in his authoritative teaching? Papal infallibility in teaching would seem to be the consequent truth (corollary) of Papal Pri-