

earth, in the perpetual and unbloody sacrifice of the New Covenant—*This is my blood : do this in commemoration of me.* This, Sire, is the word of the Master. And here is the word of the disciple, the doctor of the Gentile : *We have an altar, of the victim of which those cannot partake who remain attached to the sacrifices of the ancient tabernacle.*

Jesus Christ alone, because he is God, has by Himself the power of forgiving sins ; but this power He communicates to men, and He wills it to be exercised by the priesthood of the New Testament : *Whosoever sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them ; and whosoever sins you shall retain, they are retained.*

Jesus Christ alone is by Himself the foundation of His Church ; for *no one can lay any other foundation than that which has been laid, and this foundation is Jesus Christ.* But if the invisible hand of Christ can alone sustain His work, it is this Divine hand itself that places and sustains the visible foundation which He gives to the visible edifice of His Church : *Thou art Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.*

Jesus Christ alone is infallible by Himself, and it belongs only to His Divine word never to be deceived ; but fidelity to this word, fidelity divinely promised in guarding the deposit of revelation—that is, the infallibility of *the faith*—this He has promised to the supreme authority on which the Church is founded : *I have prayed for thee, said Christ to Peter, that thy faith fail not.* It will be for thee to *confirm thy brethern.* *Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church ; and the gates of hell (and falsehood, therefore), shall not prevail against it.* Your Majesty hears : the Church cannot be shaken in her faith, because the foundation which Christ gives to Her is to be forever unshaken.

This, Sire, is enough. The Church and the Gospel are but one ; the Gospel is the plan, the Church is the edifice ; and it is evident that without the Church the Gospel would be only a book of false promises. But it is a Divine book, and it is by the Church, above all things, that its divinity is proved ; for it is only in the Church that we see in living reality the great future which the Gospel foretold. Where else should we find the *Thou art Peter*—that is the Church founded upon Peter ? Where else should we find the *I am with you all days*—that is, the Episcopate uninterrupted, from Jesus Christ to our own time ? Where