

thou, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say to thee that thou art Peter (that is a rock), and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth it shall be bound also in heaven : and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth it shall be loosed also in heaven." This is one of the most magnificent promises ever made to man, and the most far-reaching and beneficent in its influence. Peter is made the rock on which the Church of Christ is built. Peter is to the Christian Church what the foundation is to a house. Now, it is the foundation that gives strength, unity and durability to the house. If the foundation be sand-built, or if it be removed, the whole superstructure comes tumbling down in fragments ; but if it be firm and strong and unshaken as a rock, then the rains may fall and the winds blow and beat against the house, but it will defy the tempest and the floods. Peter being the foundation and rock-basis of the Church, imparts to it its enduring solidity, its order and unity, and its undying perpetuity. His authority must be the principle of its unity and strength. All the force of its laws must be derived from him, and all its authority must finally rest on him as its basis and groundwork. Who does not see that all this necessarily implies his primacy of order and jurisdiction and teaching over the universal church.

Again, Christ gives to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, adding that " whatsoever he will bind on earth shall be bound also in heaven, and that whatsoever he will loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven." With all nations the keys are a symbol of power and sovereign jurisdiction. When the Queen visits the cities of her kingdom, the keys are presented her in acknowledgment of her royalty and sovereignty. When a fortress surrenders to a victorious general, its keys