

is innate in his soul ; it was confirmed and expanded on Mount Sinai, received its completion and perfection by the teaching of Christ, and its preservation and promulgation were assured for all time by the establishment of the Church. This last is an embodied miracle and a standing witness to God's intervention to regulate the conduct of man in a manner consonant with his nature. It has a mission to teach, with guaranteed authority, truths of the supernatural order, and to dispense the rich treasures of divine grace. The fruits of the earth may fail, the granary of the Empire may be empty, famine may consume the people ; but the bread of life ever abounds in the Church ; her storehouse is never exhausted ; and spiritual starvation can never afflict her obedient children. She teaches truths difficult of understanding, and hard to the proud of intellect ; yea, trying even to the humble ; but does she not supply invincible motives of credibility ? Is not her own rise, and spread, and continued existence as difficult of explanation as any of her dogmas ? Only in God can be found the reason for the one, or the other. Thus whilst her history bears irrefragable testimony to her divine institution and guidance, it confirms likewise the truth of her message. When our Lord's words were disbelieved by the crowd, he pointed to his works and said : "For the works which the Father hath given me to perfect ; the works themselves which I do, give testimony of me, that the Father hath sent me." (John v-36 ) So the Church, when her teaching is contested, can refer men to the story of her career. For nineteen hundred years she has been the nursery, the school, the hospital, the almshouse of souls, generating children to God, instructing them in his commandments, healing their spiritual wounds by her ministry, and nourishing them

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