

Une découverte importante.

The Protestants and Modernists teach as a foregone conclusion that there are no certain vestiges of auricular confession before the ninth and tenth centuries. But now the Roman archaeologists are publishing a picture of a green marble slab lately discovered upon which is read the following inscription in Greek: "Here the Blessed Peter absolved us the elect ones from the sins confessed."

This stone and its inscription are visible to all who desire to examine it. Its epigraphic characters are beyond doubt, those of the first century. The learned Prof. Ballerini, although himself a free thinker, has declared it a unique monument that must annihilate completely all the conclusions of the new criticism. According to Ballerini, the stone is nothing less than what Christian tradition is used to call the confessionary of St. Peter. It is not a question of baptism as some might at first sight be inclined to believe, because the sins which are forgiven are those of persons who are already baptized and actual Christians. Hence the words "us the elect ones," and then the expression "the sins confessed." It is thus a matter of real confession and that made to St. Peter who using the power given him by our Lord has forgiven the sins confessed to him.

It is not the only memorial of the practice of sacramental confession in those days of primitive Christianity as all the great Christian writers of the time refer to the practice, but it is sufficient to show us that the practice was real and living even in the times and under the hands of the apostles themselves.

The Pilot; de l'Univers M. Charles Desvergues.

