

honored successors were divinely appointed to preside, to be her safeguard against error, and to be the sole dispensers of the infallible truth ; but they are compelled to go for a proof of all this, not to the sure, unmistakeable testimony of God through His Written Word, but to their pretended traditions, handed down, be it remembered, through successive generations of men, many of whom were notorious for ungodliness, profligacy and vice. Whether, Brethren, you will receive in this matter the testimony of men or the testimony of God, judge ye ! *They* tell us that the Church is built upon *Peter*, and that we must implicitly receive all the monstrous, unscriptural, unnatural dogmas that have been invented and propagated by his so called infallible successors. But, blessed be God, " we have a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto we shall do well to take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." *We believe*, upon the testimony of Jehovah, that *no other foundation* is, or can be laid, than that which is there revealed, which is CHRIST JESUS ; and we rejoice, that He has not left us to be perplexed by the changing, uncertain *traditions of men*, but that He has given us *His Word and His Spirit*, to teach us all things necessary for our present and eternal peace.

My Brethren, let us be jealous of the simple truth as it is in Jesus,—for our holy faith, not as polluted by human additions, but pure as it was once delivered to the saints. While we pity and pray for those who through ignorance or a deceitful heart are led " to believe a lie", let us beware of their " cunningly devised fables." Let us cling closely to our open Bible,—believe nothing, as an Article of Faith, that we do not find there. Let us live upon its precepts ; let us carry out its teaching. Let us cling closely, too, to the only true foundation of our faith, not Peter, not the Pope, not the Virgin, not Saints, but the *Eternal Rock of ages*, the adorable Redeemer of our immortal souls. Let us be united closely by a living, abiding, comforting faith to Him. Let us drink in abundantly of His Spirit. Let us cherish a simple, earnest devotedness of heart and life to Him,—based upon a heartfelt gratitude for His unbounded love to us ; and we shall realize all the blessedness—all the inestimable privileges of the Ephesian Christians, as depicted by St. Paul. " Ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and