

none more palpable than the word *Church* among our seceding Brethren. They speak with great confidence of the *Protestant Church*, in contradistinction from the Catholic. But where is this Church? No where. A vast variety of sects has appeared within the last three centuries in Europe and America, denominated Protestant: from their protesting against the Church of Rome. But they have no other bond of union whatever. They are many of them bitter foes to each other, and profess tenets of reciprocal contradiction. In this chaos of creeds—amid this anarchy of sects and opinions, it is true with mathematical certainty, that all cannot have truth on their side. All may be wrong, but all cannot be right. Yet alas! they all appeal to the same standard of truth—the *Bible*: though no two sects and scarcely any two men of this whole number can agree in their interpretation of its meaning.

Thus it is evident that out of the Catholic Church, there is no certainty of faith and no assurance of salvation, and many an example has there been of a Catholic, after rejecting the authority of his native Church, becoming an *Atheist*.

THE Authors of the *Encyclopædia* speak very pertinently on this subject. "The first step (say they) which the curious and indocile Catholic takes, when he begins to be dissatisfied with his Religion, is to adopt the Protestant rule of investigation, to constitute himself a judge of Religion, and become Protestant. Led on by this rule in the ardor of investigation, he soon begins to discover that the principles of Protestantism are incoherent, and its doctrine unintelligible. Still therefore, conducted by the same rule, he goes forward, and becomes a Socinian. Socinianism, he finds out has all the perplexities and inconsis-