

ancient Church, and who fancy that in the Bible they discover a bond of union, although on all other points their disunion is painfully notorious. And yet, Dearly Beloved Brethren, it is deplorable to reflect, that those who talk so much about the Bible, seem to know little or nothing of its spirit, and that in no particular is the false testimony against us, more visible than in this.

Our Holy Church has ever venerated the Scriptures as God's *written* Word. She carefully collected them, and distinguishing the true from the false, and the genuine and authentic from those which were spurious, reduced them into a Canon, and announced them to her children as the inspired works of the Holy Ghost. Her Confessors and Martyrs have endured all manner of torture, and resigned life itself rather than deliver into the hands of their pagan persecutors the precious copies of the inspired volume. One of her most eloquent, learned, and holy Doctors,* the Latin Secretary of Pope St. Damasus consecrated a great portion of his life to the study and translation from the original languages of the Holy Scriptures, and twelve centuries before the so-called Reformation enriched the christian world with that splendid monument of learning, piety and perseverance, the VULGATE,—a version which then unlocked those divine treasures to all who were able to read, which has been since declared by a General Council to be an authentic exposition of the meaning of the Holy Ghost, and which, in fine, from its extraordinary merit has extorted the admiration

* St. Jerome, who was born in 340, and died in 420.