

opinions, yet our Protestant Brethren insist, that they have a standard of truth, and a rule of faith, to which they appeal on all occasions, and by which they profess to be governed entirely. This is the Bible.

“THE Bible (says Chillingworth) is the Religion of Protestants.”

ON the contrary, Catholics maintain that the Bible, however inspired, is insufficient as a rule of faith, and a guide to salvation.

LEST this sentiment should be misunderstood, it may be proper to state, that no people on the face of the earth, entertain a more profound veneration for the Holy Scriptures, than the Clergy and Laity of the Catholic Church. The solemnity and genuflexions which are exacted in reading them at Mass, are edifying to all strangers who occasionally assist at this Sacrifice. One side of the High Altar is called the *Gospel* side, and the other, that of the *Epistle*. Nor are they less respected by Catholics individually. They are read with great devotion; and by many upon their knees.

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WHAT is the Bible? The Bible it will be answered, is the History of the most remarkable Dispensations of God to Man. It records a series of the most astonishing events, analogous to nothing which we, of the present age, have ever seen or heard—events in constant contradiction to the usual routine of things, and in perpetual violation of the common laws of nature.

Now in the first place, what evidence does the Bible afford in proof of the amazing and miraculous transactions which it relates?—None whatever. No book can authenticate itself.—It must then be believed upon *external* testimony. And