

objection frequently urged which, as it professes to be founded on Scripturo, is worth considering. It is said that to introduce graven characters or carving into a Church is a violation of the second commandment. Here let us observe that, if we take the first part of the second commandment by itself, irrespective of what follows, the prohibition extends to making a likeness of any thing out of the Church as well as in it. *All sculpture, all painting, the very likeness of a living friend, is, according to that view, forbidden.* But if such an interpretation be too absurd to need refuting, then, if we take the two parts of the commandment together, the prohibition will be against our making "*a likeness of any thing in heaven, or in earth, or under the earth, to bow down to it or to worship it.*" We are not to make a reverence, or obeisance, as an act of worship, to any human or other form: but when there is no intention nor practice of worshipping any but the one true God, then the commandment contains no other prohibition.

Now is not Divine example the best interpreter of Divine precept? The second commandment was given by God to Moses. Clearly then, what the Most High commanded this same Moses to do at the same time, is the best evidence of the meaning of the commandment. Now God commanded Moses as follows: "*And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: and thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them in the two ends of the mercy seat. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; and there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony.*"* Here are carved symbolic figures ordered by God to be erected in the place "where he would commune with them." And again, "*moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.*"† Here is embroidery with symbolical figures. And again, "*thou shalt make a veil of blue,*

* Exodus xxv. 17, 18, 20, 22.

Exodus xxvi. 1.

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