

erudition, of the tendency of indolence to acquiesce without proof<sup>a</sup> in received opinions, or of arrogance to forsake the old and tried paths, and strike out for itself new lines of thought, and make such ingenious discoveries in the things to be believed as are sure to attract notice by their very boldness and originality; who, that attaches to these several springs of action the weight which they undoubtedly possess, would not be afraid, lest, haply, he might fall into the condemnation of those who teach error for truth? It is impossible to read the history of the Church, and survey the various theological opinions, which have prevailed in different ages of it, without seeing cause to dread being turned aside from "the truth, as it is in Jesus<sup>b</sup>." If in any thing there be need of patience, it is to stand firm and unmoved by the loud voices and positive assertions of any particular school, which happens for the day to be in the ascendant, and with much care and diligence to search concerning every article of the creed, by a painful and prayerful investigation of the Scriptures, and of the old Catholic doctors, what the Church has from the beginning taught. Thus alone can those, to whom this precious trust has been committed, be

<sup>a</sup> 1 Thess. v. 21.

<sup>b</sup> Eph. iv. 21.