

CHAPTER VI

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed contains the principal mysteries of our Faith, and is an abridgment of what we are to believe in reference to God, to man, and to the world.

What the Creed teaches us of God

In regard to God we are required to believe that there is only one God; that in this one God there are three Divine Persons, distinct from each other, yet each equally God; that these three Persons form but one God, having exactly the same nature; that the Father begot the Son, the eternal *Word*, equal to Himself from all eternity, the same God with the Father and the Holy Ghost; that the Son was made man to redeem us from sin and hell; that in Jesus Christ, God the Son made man, there are two complete natures, the Divine and the human nature, and consequently two wills, the Divine and the human will; that, although there are *two natures* in Jesus Christ, there is only *one Person*, the Person of God the Son; and that the Holy Ghost is equal to the Father and to the Son, yet proceeds from both.

Of Man

In regard to man the Creed teaches us that he has been created by God; that he has an immortal soul; that he has sinned and been redeemed; that he will rise again at the last day to be judged; that he will be rewarded or punished eternally according to his works; and that God has given him the means of arriving at the truth, of doing good, and of making atonement for his sins, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

Of the World

In regard to the world, we must believe that it has been created by God out of nothing; that He preserves and governs it by a universal providence; and that one day it will have an end.

Divisions of the Creed

The Creed itself contains twelve parts or articles, and, since it has the Blessed Trinity as its foundation, these articles may for convenience be divided into three groups, the first of which refers to God the Father and the work of Creation, which is especially attributed to Him; the second to the Son and the work of Redemption; and the third to the Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier, and His work in the Church.

I believe

From what has already been said of Faith, we have learnt that, by the words "I believe," is not merely meant "I think," "I am of opinion," but "I hold for certain," without a shadow of doubt, as this my certainty rests on the testimony of God Himself, who has revealed to His Church the truths which I believe. My faith, then, rests on an infallible authority; it is founded on the Divine veracity.