

"You cannot know what are the Bible books without the authority of the Church."

Origen, the famous historian, who preached a liable on the Council of ~~Marica~~ Marica. He says that the members of the Council spread all the religious literature on the floor and they prayed to God, and the Canonical Books jumped up on the table. The only foundation for that extraordinary liable is that in the Council of Marica it states that the sacred books ^{were} laid on the table, which is ^{slightly} different, I think you will agree. You have in Presbyterian circles in Orthodox Presbyterianism the very useful factors of taking the book. You know the story that the clergyman came into him and said, "Will you take the book of this church?" and the people said, "Yes, I take the book and you follow me at a respectable distance." Well, it ^{would be} rather startling if I were to say, ~~that~~ "Presbyterians, pray, and the Bible jumps on to the reading desk every Sunday." That I think would not be accepted. So you want to watch that. Now what is the answer to this objection? It is not very easy, but still if you think it out, I think you will get it. There is a difference between inherent work and the witness to it. Suppose you go into a shop to buy a volume of Shakespeare. You come out and you think that you have a lovely volume of Shakespeare. Look at it. And I say to you, "How do you know it is Shakespeare? Might not the shop people have pawned off a collection of poems to which he attached the name of Shakespeare?" Well, how do you know? Of course, you don't bother. People say it is Shakespeare and you take it for granted. But if you went into the matter with any importance. What you would say to me is, "Well, I know that Shakespeare lived in the closing years of Queen Elizabeth. Now I have this volume of Shakespeare that has bound and printed quite recently. I go to a library and I find the first edition of Shakespeare. There is the date on it. The date corresponds to the time when the reliable history tells me that Shakespeare wrote. I compare the book that I have at present with the book in the ^{substantially} library and I find that it is ~~practically~~ the same. There are some alterations, for there is more than one ^{9-14 1/2} retention of Shakespeare, but the differences are trifling and I know that I have the body of the Shakespearian poems in this