Dear Friend,

Hatfield, July 12.

Yes, it was very nearly what I expected—nearly, but not quite.

I acknowledge the truth of every word you have said. It is a matter of fact that the Catholic Church has done all the things you say she has done, and other Church has done so. These are facts of history.

Would I could believe more. Emperically, I believe more scientifically, she has no more power over me than I have over her. I believe in her with all the power of my eyes, as
the early Chaldeans believed in the return of eclipses which they could ascertain by observation, but could not account for.

You will say, as my dear Madre, do the Greeks need always to do. Is not that enough? What would you have more? The beautiful tree to be true. Ye shall know a tree by its fruits.

But there is a difference between conjecturing empirically or knowing certainly. The observation shows the uniformity which lies in the Catholic Church of
faith of simplicity of heart,
of love, of self-sacrifice, of
the observance of the
Chaldeans showed them the
uniformities of the Celestial
Sextants. But I hesitate
lately, for want of being
able to believe their theories
as we waited till Kepler
told us the law, which
the Sextants had only
mistaken.

You would have me
laugh at the blinding
the Catholic Church has to
give, without having given
her, my unconditional
allegiance. I make my
own conditions (tacitly).
Instead of receiving her, to have I done all my life with the Anglican Church. I have watched her Sacraments (a faithless child, but she never asked me why) tacitly making my own conditions to myself.

I stand now trembling where I stood firm before. Now I have known left the arms of one Church but to go to those of another. A more faithful mother, I have a precipice behind me. If I do not reach the Church.


[Last sheet missing]  

George Washington

Your Son, George.