

THE CHURCH.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the Church; it is next to God; it brings Him to us, and us to Him. Could it be credited, that unless it were of absolute necessity for our welfare to rightly believe in the Church and recognize the Church, the Article would be placed in the creeds of Christendom 'I believe in the One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church?' If the recognition of the Church were of no importance, or small importance, as many hold and teach, can it be believed that her existence and characteristics as verities would be placed next in order and succession to the verities of God's being and Christ's death? All the truths of the Creed, men will tell us with one voice, are of the most tremendous importance—the truth of the Trinity, of the Incarnation, of the pardon of sin, of the resurrection of the dead, and of the life everlasting—all, all are of infinite importance, save one, and that is the Church; some may, many will, go so far as to wish it were out of the Creed altogether, and do virtually leave it out; or if they keep it in, they degrade it by labelling it with some man's name, or descriptive epithet, borrowed from their special heresy or ground of schism. Thus they bear witness against themselves, since it is an impiety to believe in an unreality, or a thing of little or no consequence, or an actual hindrance to the apprehension of Christ. It is worse than misleading to allow the Article 'I believe in the One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church' to stand where it does in the Creed,

and challenge our faith in it as a verity next in succession and importance to belief in God Himself, unless it be so in truth and in reality."

SMALL MEANS.

THE power of money is on the whole over-estimated. The greatest things which were done for the world have not been accomplished by rich men or by subscription lists, but by men generally of small pecuniary means. The great thinkers, discoverers, inventors and artists have been men of moderate wealth, many of them little raised above manual labourers, in point of worldly circumstances. And it will always be so. Riches are oftener an impediment than a stimulus to action; and in many cases they are quite as much a misfortune as a blessing. The youth who inherits wealth is apt to have life made too easy for him, and soon he grows sated with it, because he has nothing left to desire. Having no special object to struggle for, he finds time heavy on his hands, remains mentally and morally asleep; and his position in society is often no higher than that of a polypus over which the tide floats.

ALMSGIVING.

THAT all property, of whatever kind, is ultimately God's, and that men are merely its stewards, is a maxim which no Christian will dispute. It follows, then, as a corollary, owned by the very heathen, that a fixed offering, by way of tribute or rent, is due from all men, while this offering has from