

At the close of the first Christian century, then we behold the Holy Catholic Church with its Three-fold Ministry: Apostles or Angels, Presbyters, and Deacons.

VII. I pass to the seventh and last period; the opening decade of the second Christian century, from A. D. 100 to A. D. 110.

At the opening of the second century, St. Ignatius, a disciple of St. John, was Bishop of Antioch. By the orders of Emperor Trajan, St. Ignatius, because he confessed himself a Christian, was taken from Antioch to Rome, and there in the Coliseum in the presence of tens of thousands of spectators, thrown to the wild beasts, so receiving the crown of martyrdom.

On his journey from Antioch to Rome he composed seven letters, mostly to the Churches of Lesser Asia; in six out of them he makes distinct mention of the three Orders of the Christian Ministry, and by their present names: Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In his Epistle to the Trallians, after mentioning the names of the three Orders of the Ministry, he says: "Without them there is no Church."

The first Order of the Christian Ministry from the days of St. Ignatius was called not Apostles, but Bishops. Tertullian gives the reason. The successors of the Apostles did not consider themselves worthy to be called Apostles, therefore they took a name which hitherto had been with Presbyter, an alternate name of the second Order of the Ministry. From the commencement of the second century, therefore, the word *Episcopos*, or Bishop, denoted no longer the Overseer of a flock, but the Overseer of the pastors of the flocks.

I need not pursue the matter any further. From the second century, what Tertullian says, "*Nulla Ecclesia sine Episcopo*;"—"No Church without a Bishop;"—has been a fact as well as a maxim.

Since the time of Christ's Apostles then, these three Orders of Ministers have existed in every Christian Church; Bishops, Priests, and Deacons: and they continued so to exist till the sixteenth century, till Calvin in Switzerland and Knox in Scotland inaugurated the Presbyterian form of government.

Hooker's challenge to the Puritans at the end of the sixteenth century has never been answered. He challenged the Puritans of