

writer dwells entirely on the Apostolical origin, Ecclesiastical Supremacy, and continued succession of Bishops of the Church of Rome, as the subject of his discourse. And surely the very idea of every Church being obliged to resort to this Church, as a spiritual body, cannot be understood merely of their *assembling* at Rome, to consult the records of that Church, but must include the principle of their *submission* to her spiritual authority. But, to evade the force of this statement, Protestant writers have generally endeavored to apply this language to the dignity of the Imperial City of Rome though this is a mere hypothesis, and contrary to the whole train of reasoning employed by St. Irenæus. This view appears to have been first proposed by Chamier\*, in the early part of the 17th Century; and it was also maintained by Archbishop Laud†, though he seems rather inclined to apply it to the *Patriarchal* jurisdiction of the Church of Rome, and to admit the necessity of agreement in faith, within those limits. However, the *political* sense was afterwards defended by Bp. Stillingfleet‡, and by Barrow§, and subsequently by Grabe¶, who explained it as referring to a supposed Assembly of Delegates of the various Churches, sent to Rome to plead the cause of Christianity before the Emperors, and the same view has since been adopted by Neander¶ in our own times.

Again, the Catholic interpretation is confirmed by the *necessity* of resorting to the Roman Church, as stated by St. Irenæus. What is the *nature* of this necessity? Surely it cannot be a *physical*, but a *moral* one. It cannot be sup-

\* Chamieri Panstratiæ Catholicæ, Tom. II. Lib. xiii. c. 23, n. 12. (Ed. Gen. 1626.)

† Laud's Conference with Fisher.—Works, Vol. II. p. 202. (Ed. Oxf. 1849.)

‡ Stillingfleet's Vindication of Laud, Vol. II. p. 242. (Ed. Oxf. 1841.)

§ Barrow's Treatise of the Pope's Supremacy—Works, Vol. I. p. 657. (Ed. Lond. 1741.)

¶ S. Iren. Opp. p. 201. (Fol. Oxon. 1702.)

¶ Neander's Church History, Vol. I. p. 284. (Ed. Lond. 1853.)

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