

organic unity of the visible Church, It is a prayer that believers may be one. But in what respect? Certainly not one in everything. No one imagines that the meaning is that they shall be one in statute, colour or nationality! No one believes that they shall be one in learning, mental powers, or general culture. Why then should we suppose they must be one in the profession of faith which they make, the sacraments they enjoy, and the ecclesiastical government under which they live? Such a meaning must be put into Christ's words, from some other source, before it can be extracted from them. The language clearly points to a unity of a very different kind: "As thou Father art in me, and I in thee, that they all may be one in us." It cannot be supposed that this unity is realized in all the members of a visible society which includes both believers and reprobates. Reprobates who are acknowledged by Bellarmine to have a place in the Church cannot be one in the Father and the Son. Judas Iscariot and Simon Magus were not in the company for whom Christ here prays, and did not share in the blessing sought, but they were both members of the visible Church.

3. It is claimed, however, that the end for which this oneness of believers is sought, viz: "That the world might believe that thou hast sent me," implies a unity which is visible and palpable. Dr. Dollinger attaches great weight to this consideration, and we would admit its force, provided it could be shown that the unity of a great visible organization is the only thing the world can see, and be impressed by. But such a unity does not necessarily lead the world to believe. When the character and spirit of the organization happen to be bad, it may have the very opposite effect. It is only when the members of the visible Church illustrate in their lives the spirit of Christ, that the world is impressed; and we venture to think that the impression will not depend so much on their being grouped in one, or in many visible organizations, as upon the beauty of their lives. History pours contempt upon the dream that the world is to be converted through the im-