

hindrance by reason of your negligence, ye know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue."

And shall these things cause us to be dismayed and cast down, or shrink from and faint under our responsibilities? No! no! the very obstacles should but the more nerve us to exertion. As the mind of a worthy commander will rise to the difficulty, and the spirit of the brave soldier or sailor, meeting with dangers, thinks only how most speedily they may be mastered; so the soldier of the cross—the leader of the Lord's hosts—knowing his true position, his difficulties, and his dangers, his spirit too may rise to the emergency; he looks round and perhaps thinks how shall I obtain the mastery over all these? he looks up, pleads the promise, "As thy day so thy strength shall be," and finds the strength of the Almighty made perfect in his weakness; and like St. Paul presses on in the path of duty with the fixed determination, "*This one thing I do.*"

For consider how great is the encouragement. We go forth as the rightly-commissioned leaders in the Church of the living God, and this is no small matter. "As the Father hath sent me so send I you," said the Saviour; and unless we are prepared to admit that the authority which, after the call by the Holy Spirit, sends us forth, commenced with those who had of themselves no such authority, and consequently could not confer upon others that which of themselves they did not lawfully possess, I do not see how the principle of what is commonly termed Apostolic Succession can be denied: it may be sneered at, it may be abused, but not readily controverted. It is evident (says the preface to the Ordination of Deacons) unto all men diligently reading the Holy Scriptures, and ancient authors, that from the apostles' times there have been three orders of ministers in Christ's Church, Bishop, Priests and Deacons. Can a Christian Church be pointed out amongst those not affected by the reformation in any part of the world, however it may err