

righteousness that spiritual life in the soul can exist and thrive. I fear, my brethren, that we are too apt to forget this great and all important truth. We are too ready to rest satisfied with a mere orthodox creed, and respectable church membership. If we attend to the services of the Church, partake of the Holy Communion, and conform to the moral code which the teaching and discipline of the Church require, we are prone to comfort ourselves with the idea that nothing more is required of us; forgetting that these are not the end; but only the means to the end.

I yield to no one in reverence for the glorious old historic Church to which we belong; with its apostolic order and its apostolic doctrine. The Church which has given to us—and to the world an open bible. The Church which is to-day sending the living voice into almost every part of the globe. The Church which by God's blessing is taking root downward and bearing fruit upward to such an extent that it bids fair soon to give all nations shelter beneath its branches. This Church with its open bible, its calm sober devotional liturgy, its sacraments, its constantly recurring seasons of the christian year, its provision for the training of the lambs of Christ's flock. This Church, not of my birth and childhood, but of my selection in more mature years, I love with all the ardour of which my soul is capable. And you, my brethren, are my witnesses that, according to the ability which God has given me, I have sought to imbue you all with the same loving regard for it. But God forbid that ever I should attempt to put, or you to accept, the Church in the place of Christ. No: He is the chief corner stone of the Church without which it could not stand. He is the head of the body without which the members could have no life. He is the reservoir in which is stored, and from which flows every grace and blessing that we need. It is therefore as much for our good as for His glory that we should be drawn unto Him. While therefore we value highly the Church as the body of Christ: and our own branch of it as one of the most pure and vigorous members of the Church catholic; while we reverence the office of the ministry, and honor the men in it for their work's sake: let us rest satisfied with nothing short of an individual contact with a personal, living Saviour. The one whose words rang through the Temple on that great day of the feast: and the sound of which is still reverberating through the earth: "If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink." Yes brethren come and you shall have all you need: for in Him there is "enough for each, enough for all and enough for evermore."