

"Roman," not as implying disunity but as descriptive of a certain mental tone. Nothing can be imagined further from the ideal of such men as Pusey and Keble. Those who most disagree with their theological outlook must admit their devotion to the Common Prayer, the solemn restraint of whose phraseology was not the least forcible appeal to their affection.

Then, too, the Church in which it had pleased God to place them was to them supremely the Society. To place the English Church Union or any other human society before the Divine Society of England or to await the dictum of Lord Halifax before rendering obedience would have savoured to them of a lawlessness akin to ungodliness. The truth is that there is a danger of "societies" usurping the place and authority of the Church. The "Society of Jesus" has done that very largely in the Roman obedience; with what results all are aware. Romanists perhaps most of all. A society appeals to one's sympathy and affection, and arouses an interest which the Church too often does not. In primitive times this was not so; there was a much greater identity of interests and sense of fellowship. The persecution to which Christians were subject had, no doubt, much to do with this, but the chief factor was the belief in the Church as a Divine institution with a Divine Head in whom all were brethren. The decline of this belief led to the exaltation of the Church as separate from her Master Who no longer was regarded as the living bond of unity, and the consequent adoption of

a visible head, the prolific source of dissension and sectarianism. So long as we think of the Church, as St. Paul did, as the Body of Christ, we cannot be too "High" in our belief; so long as we regard her as separate from Him, we cannot be too "Low."

What the future may hold in store, who can tell? That the Bishop of London felt urged lately to declare publicly his opinion that the Establishment ought to be retained even at the cost of Disendowment, would seem to show that wise men in England read in the ecclesiastical sky the signs of an approaching storm. It is in days of darkness and trial such as are now in the old land that men's faith is put to the test. To him who believes in the Divine life, as well as origin, of the Church, there is a standing place of rock while the feet of others stumble hither and thither. His sadness as a patriot will find solace in the thought that:

"The old order changeth, giving place to
new,
And God fulfils Himself in many ways."

Eastern Canada and Western Missions.

On another page we give an account, kindly communicated to us, of the experiences and results of the visit paid last winter to the Ontario dioceses by Mr. Webb, Secretary of Synod. His mission was one of the results of the withdrawal of the grants from the English societies which have so far supported the Church's work in the West, and was a following in