

But it no less is the "tradition" of Protestants, a tradition extending over the same period, to hold "Popery" in utter abhorrence, as a soul-tyranny, a tissue of lies and deceit, a veritable system of idolatry, the religion of anti-Christ. It requires a certain amount of courage, therefore, to plead with the traditionalist, on either side, that there may be good in the other, if only "in spite of his errors". Still more does it need courage to urge that, in face of a common and united foe, such traditions should be set on one side, if not forgotten, and that the followers of the One Lord, whatever differences may otherwise keep them apart, should fight, side by side, under His banner, against His enemies.

In considering even the possibility of such an alliance we must, necessarily, take into account the causes, which, in the first instance, led to our "unhappy divisions", and assume, honestly, whatever responsibility may be found to rest upon us, as Catholics. It takes two, as the old saying has it, to make a quarrel; but it is no less true that the older and better informed participant must bear the greater blame.

Who, then, apart from human perversity, the wiles of Satan and the inscrutable mysteries of Divine Providence, is really responsible for the existence and continuance of heresy? Charles Kingsley, from whose "Hypatia" I have already quoted, puts a noteworthy answer to this question into the mouth of one of his characters, the Abbot Philamon. "On the Catholic Church alone," he makes him say "lies the blame of all heresy and unbelief: for if she were for one day that which she ought to be, the world would be converted before nightfall." Is not this witness only the simple and shameful truth? Had the Church retained her first Pentecostal fervour would the "Reformation" have been possible, as, perhaps, in a very real sense, it was necessary? If every individual Catholic, man or woman, in a parish, a city, or a diocese, lived, but for one day, as God and the Church mean us to live, "worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called," how many Protestants and unbelievers in that neighbourhood would remain unconverted? Of