

**DR. QUINN'S REASONS FOR
HIS CHANGE OF ECCLIES-
ASTICAL RELATIONS.**

From the *Helena Independent*.

As is generally known in religious circles, Dr. J. C. Quinn has left the Presbyterian Church to join the Episcopal Church in the diocese of Montana. He sends the following letter stating his reasons:

Editor *Independent*: It may interest your readers to know what it was that led me to take this step which has so stirred the members of my own and other Churches.

The claims of Episcopacy and Presbytery have been under consideration from time to time during the past seventeen years, and the claims of the former received but a passing notice and were set aside for a season as not of vital importance. During the past winter, however, the discussion about the revision of the confession of faith brought up once more the matter of Church polity, and Episcopacy would have received perhaps scant attention as heretofore, but for the following circumstance. In my reading on this subject I met with one distinguished author who stated that Dr. Miller, in his work, "The Ministry" had been guilty of giving some partial and one-sided quotations from the Ancient Fathers. This excited my interest and attention and led me to a perusal of Dr. Miller's book, "The Ministry," and a careful examination of the Ancient Fathers.

You may imagine my surprise to find, in several cases, quotations from the Ancient Fathers (particularly Jerome), specially arranged to give full force to the argument against Episcopacy. But the portions in the immediate context in

each case were against Presbytery altogether and in favor of Episcopacy.

The discovery led me at once to a full and exhaustive study of the claim of Episcopacy, with the following result:

From a careful searching and study of the Scriptures, especially the Ancient Fathers and Church history, I have reached at length this conclusion, viz.:

First—From the divine appointment of the Aaronic priesthood, all the way through CHRIST's public ministry, down to the closing of the Sacred Canon, I find no Church of God on earth spoken of or referred to in the Scriptures that is not Episcopal in polity. With a recent writer on this subject I would state: The Church is fixed and stable. The ministry and doctrines have been unaltered for eighteen centuries. She goes unflinching forward. She remains unchanged, while all else is changing." She is like a city set on a hill, the observed of all observers.

In conclusion, permit me further to state that I am happy in being in the Church in which I can live in the times of, and associate with, Clement, Irenæus, Ignatius, Jerome and St. Paul.

In a word I am now a member of the Church which has lived from the beginning of the Christian era until now—the Church which is described in Scripture as "the pillar and ground of the truth;" the Church that has through the centuries "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teachings and fellowship, in the "Breaking of Bread and the prayers," in spite of frequent internal strife and much external opposition.

Yours in the bonds of Christian love,
JAS. C. QUINN.