

4. "The lack of authority in matters of faith. Sectarianism ends practically in individualism and religious anarchy. It makes every man his own authority in religion; makes him stand up for his own opinions, teaching him that he has 'the right to interpret the Bible according to his own ideas.' In fact, it would logically lead every one to make a Christianity to suit himself."

5. "And finally, the persuasion that sectarianism is radically wrong, destructive of the Church, and finally of the Christian Faith. It breaks up the Church, which its Divine Founder meant to be one and undivided, into a host of conflicting bodies, thus dissipating the forces of Christianity, and courting the assaults of infidelity. By its multitudinous statements of faith and creeds it tends to weaken faith, and by making every man his own authoritative religious guide opens a wide road to naturalism."

"Having become convinced of the existence of these evils, I began to look for a communion in which I would escape them, and found it in--and only in--the Episcopal Church. --*Canadian Churchman*.

## THE SEASON OF LENT.

Lent means Spring, and hence is applied to the spring fast of the Church which begins on Ash Wednesday, and ends Easter Eve, inclusive.

The observance of a fast before Easter is of very early origin, but a considerable period elapsed before the time of its commencement, and the period of its duration were settled by authority.

The historian, Socrates (A.D. 440) mentions various differences in the observance of Lent, and concludes, "Since no one can show any written rule about this, it is plain that the Apostles left the matter free to each one's judgment and choice, that no one should do the thing through fear or necessity."

The Church of England has, however, defined the duration and is, of course, an authority to her members for its due observance. Rules for fasting and abstinence, she has not given us, and much is therefore left to each one's discretion. It is, however, clear from the Collects, what the mind of the Church is. Lent is to be a season of special self-denial, increased devotion, of public services, private prayer, scriptural instruction, and penitential discipline, that, by stricter attention for a season to the state of the spiritual life, there may be permanent recovery of the Divine favor, which has been lost.