

the world, hope to effect more by the practical work of the Church than by doctrinal teaching. In fact, the Epistle of St. James reads as a corrective of an exaggerated reliance on systematic theology, and almost as a polemic against St. Paul. We find in the early Church advocates of these same main phases of Christian life and practice which have ever since prevailed, and which still characterize and unfortunately, by their tendency to refuse mutual recognition, distract the Church.

If we survey the conditions of the Protestant Churches to-day and the direction of their prominent proclivities, I think we will recognize that they are distinctly towards a more ornamental form of worship, that is, in favour of ritualism, and towards social reform, rather than towards strict adherence to dogmatic formulæ or towards mysticism. Most congregations of almost all denominations demand a more ornamental service. The symbolism of vestures, postures, and sacraments is understood and appreciated by very few; but the charm of music and the theatrical effect of a well-conducted service, heightened by well arranged accessories in the chancel, appeal to the æsthetic taste of the public, and excite religious emotions, except in minds prejudiced and imbued by strong traditional or logical antipathies. As a magnificent presentation, performed in most perfect and harmonious setting, there is nothing to equal the celebration of the Mass in a Roman Catholic cathedral. Every detail is the result either of some ritualistic motive borrowed from an olden ceremony, which had a clear meaning not antagonistic to Christianity, or is the product of centuries of development, under the inspiration of the most artistic, as well as enthusiastic, religious minds of Christendom. It originated in Rome, Byzantium, or North Africa; and in practice every detail is followed with scrupulous care, and admirably performed by men trained to their office from childhood. To the educated, every gesture and vestment conveys some symbolical meaning; but the feelings of the crowd are affected by the sensuous beauty and the mystery. It