

Head of the Church, no kingdom divided against itself can stand. Let those then pause who seek to create or foster discussion, let those pause who in their jealous desire to make their own standard, "the standard of the whole Church," forget the far higher importance of unity, lest in the great day they be found to be among the enemies, and not the friends of the Church.

There is yet one more point to which, as we have entered upon this modern battle field, we may draw attention. Modern ritual is an effect not a cause; it is the effect of a deeper spirituality, of a more truly religious spirit, than has prevailed in the world for centuries. There can be no doubt that the ultra ritualism, which is exceptional, is the "brilliant fantastic consecration, which" "has cast itself forth from the surface of the weltering mass of molten metal," "which, unaffected by such exhalations, flows on with its full stream into its appointed world; * while the steady flow of reviving ritual is the expression of the molten condition of modern religious life, and is startling only in contrast with the terrible deathly quiet of preceding generations. If we would we cannot repress the great Catholic movement, which has shown such strength in every branch of the Anglican Church, but it is possible to drive men out of our communion into that other Church which is ever ready to profit by our mistakes. Our forefathers drove out from them many who ought never to have left, and would never have left the communion of the Church of their birth: and there are too many of our members, who in a desire to repress all zeal that does not exactly fall in with their views, are starting to do the same again. Are we to lose all our best, all our most earnest men, because they do not altogether suit the popular standard of religious feeling, a standard which varies from age to age, from day to day? The world never grows wiser, though it grows older: the same world which showed itself so blind in the early days of the Christian faith, remains as blind still; but to those who in any way, in any degree, are the leaders of public opinion in this great, and growing and free Church, we appeal that they be not carried away by the general rush, but that before condemning and striving to repress this or any other great movement, they search and see, whether the waters of the flood, which, if stopped in their course, would overflow their banks, may not be kept within proper bounds, and utilised, so that they may fertilize instead of devastating the land, even their mother Church, the Church of their birth or of their adoption.

* Charge of the Bishop of Oxford, December, 1866.

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