

The little band of faithful Missionaries sailed from Southampton, in the *Seine*, West Indian steamer, on Monday, 2d July. "Brethren, pray for them."

THE INWARD CALL.

So much, then, as to the materials for an answer to the general question, whether you are indeed moved inwardly by God the Holy Ghost to undertake this ministry. But there is a further branch of this question distinctly stated in the service for Ordaining Priests, and implied in that for the Ordering of Deacons, to which I would wish for a few moments to call your attention. The question, put in its distinctness, is,—“Do you think in your heart, that you be truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *the Order of this United Church of England and Ireland*, to the order and ministry of priesthood?” Now a sincere answer to this question must imply that your mind is so fully and entirely satisfied as to the orders, discipline, and doctrine of that Church whose minister you seek to be, that you have not a doubt or a misgiving concerning her character and office as being the true branch of Christ's holy Church which He has planted in this land. The first part of the question tests your secret call to the ministry of Christ; the second, your call to minister in this branch of the Church in which you apply for Holy Orders. If you have a doubt as to her true character; if you are conscious to yourself that you are about to sign her Articles in a sense of your own, and one which really differs from that in which they are proposed to you as the rule of your teaching, and the condition of receiving your credentials, you are most truly obtaining the office of a teacher under false pretences, and cannot expect God's blessing on your course. These may sound hard words, but they are unhappily necessary. So much labour has been spent, and so much perverted ingenuity employed, in mystifying the requirements of common honesty in this matter, that they who are charged to enforce subscription as a preliminary to conferring Orders, seem to me compelled to be even painfully explicit. I wou'd not indeed strain the rule so as to require from all an absolutely passive uniformity of view on every separate proposition of the Articles, as the test of a conscientious subscription; such conduct would be very unlike the moderation and wisdom of the Church of England, which has always (witness her 17th Article) allowed a certain, nay, even a large licence to different minds; but I repeat my judgment that unless you are honestly convinced that in the main tone and tenour of your mind and opinions you do thoroughly and heartily agree with the Thirty-nine Articles, as to what they assert and what they condemn, in the sense in which they are propounded to you, you cannot honestly subscribe them; and I will add, that I believe you could not more deeply injure yourselves than by allowing yourselves to sign such documents at such a time with subterfuges and reservations. I am sure that a more deadly blow could not be inflicted on our Church, than that a people, of whose character, thank