

among the converts are in some rudimentary way set apart as ministers, and ordinances are observed, the Word is preached, prayer is offered in public, and the sacraments are administered. Men and women among them die rejoicing in the Saviour, whose blood redeemed them. Dare any man say that there is a truer Church on earth than the community of believers on that island? Let us say that when a generation passes away a bishop comes along of the modern kind, and he confirms the converts there and ordains presbyters over them, is there a higher kind of holiness as the result of that episcopal visit? Do those that die after that have any more joy in Christ, and look more confidently for a resurrection than those that died previously? When we look at the picture, which is by no means overdrawn, and ask what is essential to a Church, and what is merely accidental or incidental to a Church, what is the answer that any reasonable, impartial person will give? Will the answer not be that the salvation of souls is the main thing, and that office-bearers are but incidental? Or suppose another case which possibly is a more common thing than what we have just referred to. Supposing that it was not a copy or copies of the Holy Scriptures, or, at all events, nor these alone that in God's providence and grace came in the way of the people on that island; supposing, say, that in a shipwreck, or on board a castaway, a sailor with his Bible was thrown on that island. He himself is an humble Christian, and without intending to be a missionary, he by the force of circumstances becomes one. As he read his Bible and prayed over it for years in the fore-castle, and his spiritual life uncon-