

POPULAR ERRORS.

A Rector of our acquaintance is seriously of the opinion that a good deal of ignorance with regard to the Prayer Book and its teachings is to be found amongst baptised members of the Church of England.

One of his female communicants lately said to him,—“Mrs. ——— asked me to be godmother for her baby, but I refused.” “Why?” Because I stood as godmother for a child some years ago, and my conscience has troubled me about it ever since. Why should I or anybody else be expected to be responsible for the sins of any child until it is confirmed?” “But no sponsor is held chargeable with the sins of his or her god-child. You, as sponsor, merely answered *for the child*, or in the child’s place, as it was too young to speak for itself. The child, by your mouth, promised repentance, and faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. God’s church administers Baptism to no one who does not profess repentance and faith. Without these none can be grafted into Christ, the good vine. Without repentance and faith no soul can be saved as a Christian. Do you believe a child can be admitted into God’s Kingdom above if it dies in its infancy?” “Why, yes! God forbid I should doubt. Some of my own little ones were taken away in their infancy?” “Well, Our Lord says, ‘Except ye repent ye shall all

perish,’ and ‘He that believeth not shall be damned.’ Did your infants show any sign of faith or repentance?” “No.” “Can they now be with Christ in Paradise and at His right hand in the day of judgment without faith or repentance?” “I cannot answer you. But surely God is merciful to the little ones. He surely has provided a way out of this difficulty.” “You may well say that,—for if the child were refused baptism and thereby denied admission into the Church on earth, to the moment of its death, and immediately afterwards spoken of as a member of the Church above, this would represent the Church below as being more pure than the Church above. You have well said that surely God in His mercy must have provided a way out of this terrible difficulty. ‘Without holiness no man shall see the Lord,’ and there is no holiness out of Christ. And the Scripture says, ‘As many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ.’ *As many*, you see,—and no more. If we are in His Body we are covered with the white robe, the wedding garment of His righteousness? He has commanded us to suffer even the little children to come from Adam to Him, to share the second birth. And He has provided for their profession of repentance and faith, even as our laws provide for their promising not to waste their worldly inheritance in the time of their minority. The law provides