

who do not come up to their standard : that is, they actually stop the work of the Lord, because they who were doing that work, and doing it well, were not Episcopally ordained, or "walked not with us."

In the conduct of our Lord, we have a complete refutation of the claims set up ; also a direct stop put to all such proceedings, on the part of his disciples. How promptly he interferes, how decidedly he legislates. But a short time before he had silenced contentions, and given counsel on the subject of "greatest," and "least," among themselves as disciples ; teaching that the only ministerial greatness that shall by Himself be tolerated in his Church is found in the amount of service rendered, or of work done by ministers, to their brethren : now HE sets them right in this matter of their error also, by teaching that they possessed no such property or power as they supposed. "Forbid them not," said Jesus : the opinion you hold is erroneous, and injurious to the very work in which you profess to be engaged yourselves ; because he whom you have condemned, and forbidden to work miracles in my name, and thus publicly injured, is one of ourselves, "is with us," doing the work we are doing, and wish to have done. You, by such an act, weaken your own hands, hinder your own work, injure good men, and make foes of real friends. Our Lord then proceeds to lay down a universal rule on the subject, viz : no man can be Christ, and his Church's enemy, i.e., Dissenters, Schismatics, or Heretics, who in the name of Jesus Christ, are doing the work of God.

Such seems to me a fair, a candid and right exposition of this passage of Holy Scripture ; and this being so, it will necessarily follow that the claims set up by Puseyite teaching, called "Apostolic Succession," have often been set up before, are exploded by Christ : and in imitation of Christ, and for the same reasons are still exploded by all true Protestants, for they go to the Law of God and the Testimony of Christ and his Apostles on all such matters. Before proceeding further, you must know that all who belong to the Oxford, Puseyite or Apostolic Succession School, teach mankind that "No man is or can be a minister of the New Testament of Jesus Christ, unless he be able to trace his ministerial descent up to the Apostles themselves, through an unbroken chain of Prelates, as their true successors ;