

that he finds the judgment of the primitive Church, on all essential and important points, expressed with sufficient fulness and clearness in the standards of his own branch of the Catholic Church. This is all that is needful as regards himself. He knows that the pious and learned Reformers of the English Church framed her standards with reference to the judgment of the primitive Church, and therefore I repeat as regards himself, it is sufficient to know that the standards which contain the profession of his faith, express the voice of the Catholic Church. But as regards those who gainsay and resist the truth, it will not be enough to appeal either to the Scriptures or to our own standards; because they reject the latter, and deny our interpretation of the former. Plainly, then, in such a case there remains no other means of settling a controverted point, but by a reference to the prevailing judgment and testimony of the primitive Church, which, when clearly ascertained, as it generally may be, ought in fairness to decide the question in dispute. It is on this strong ground that we rest our defence of Episcopacy, Infant Baptism, and many other tenets and usages of the Church; and it is on the same ground we reject the novelties of Rome. But while the Church of England has ever pursued this truly Conservative course, "yet," to quote the words of high authority addressed to us in this sacred edifice three years ago, "the respect which she pays to the declared voice of the primitive Catholic Church, as a help and guide for interpreting the Scriptures, and judging of the Christian doctrines, is a respect subordinate to that which she pays to the written word of God; which she regards, and rightly regards, as the only divine source and standard of religious truth."* Such, then, Brethren, is the source whence we derive our persuasion that what we teach is truth, and that it is truth revealed by God for the salvation of men; and having this persuasion of the truth and importance of what we teach, knowing that the

* Charge of the Lord Bishop of Toronto, delivered June 6, 1844.