

address of a prominent college president, wherein the results of the higher criticism were set forth and defended, read a brief statement of the most approved positions now held by this class of thinkers. He then asked if any one would challenge these positions as unfairly stated ; and, after pausing for a reply, astonished his hearers by adding that these statements were drawn verbatim from the writings of the deist Thomas Morgan and the infidel Thomas Paine ! He then quoted one more sentence from Paine, which shows to what conclusion these premises led him : " My belief in the perfection of the Deity will not permit me to believe that a book so manifestly obscure, disorderly, and contradictory can be His work." And yet these identical positions are held and taught to-day in Christian colleges and pulpits.

From the days of the Tractarian movement in Oxford, especially, three influences have been jointly operating to compel a new protest and separation of believers from the body of the Church as a whole : First, the tendency to rationalism drawn from the German theologians ; secondly, the drift toward ritualism and Romanism, as manifested in the Anglican body, and rapidly spreading ; and, thirdly, the growing irreverence with which a pretentious criticism is stripping the Word of God of its essential infallibility and inerrancy. There are a very considerable body of believers, by no means lacking in intelligence or piety, to whom this state of things is becoming intolerable ; and we greatly mistake if a new secession is not imminent, like that of May 18th, 1843, when five hundred ministers under the leadership of Chalmers laid down their livings in Scotland rather than consent to the interference and control of law courts in church matters. While the air is full of loud clamors for a blending of all churches in one, another movement, not so superficial, but perhaps even more resistless, is in the direction of separation. There are some left who hold to the Word of God as an inspired Book, an infallible guide ; who hold to the Church as composed only of regenerate souls, whose law is to be unworldliness ; and who hold to simplicity of worship as the condition of its purity and spirituality ; and if the churches as now existing continue to countenance rationalistic teaching, ritualistic encroachments, and secularizing methods ; if theological professors are to be allowed to undermine the faith in the Bible, and godless standards of art and life to displace the Divine ideals even in the house of God, there may be another procession of new Protestants walking some day out of our present Church councils or courts, to rally about apostolic standards and keep alive the ancient faith.

We are not alarmists ; but we have seen both in England and in this country influences that are more disintegrating than unifying. When within the very Church of England there is an open and organized movement toward Rome, numbering hundreds and thousands of clerical and lay adherents ; when, in dissenting bodies there and their corresponding denominations here, there is an equally open and organized movement toward doctrines which thirty years ago would have ranked any man as an