

**13.—THE REAL PRESENCE IS ALSO AN ERRONEOUS
AND STRANGE DOCTRINE FOREIGN TO THE
TEACHING OF OUR CHURCH.**

“With regard to the other ‘strange and erroneous doctrine,’ which I have here instanced—that of the Real Presence—we cannot but remember that in its extremest form, as Transubstantiation, it formed the chief point of issue with the Church of Rome, the centre around which the strife raged the fiercest, the crucial test which cost many faithful and true men their lives. Probably no member of the Church of England, however extreme his Sacramentarian views, holds this doctrine, in its full import, and undisguised repugnance; no Anglican Priest would venture to assert it openly, in defiance of Article Twenty-eight, which declares, ‘The Body of Christ is given, taken and eaten in the Supper, only after an heavenly and spiritual manner.’ ‘And the mean whereby the Body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is Faith.’ But there is a manner of speaking of the mystery of the spiritual Presence of Christ, in and under the outward symbols, and of the effects which follow the act of consecration, which tends to inculcate views of the Holy Sacrament, very closely approaching those which this Article strongly condemns. For example, in the Manual of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament I find such language as this, ‘O my beloved Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, I firmly believe, because Thou hast said, “this is My Body; this is My Blood,” that in this Blessed Sacrament Thou art truly present, Thy Divinity and Thy Humanity, with all the treasures of Thy merits and Thy grace; that Thou art Thyself mystically offered for us in this Holy Oblation; and dost through Thy Own Presence communicate the virtues of Thy most precious Death and Passion to all Thy faithful living and departed.’ And again, ‘I adore Thee, O Lord my God, whom I now behold, veiled beneath these earthly forms. Prostrate I adore Thy Majesty.’ In the ‘Litany of our Lord present in the Holy Eucharist’ in the same Manual, amongst many like allusions to a corporeal Presence, occurs this suffrage, which seems to symbolize with the heresy of the sacrifice of the Mass, ‘That by this adorable sacrifice we may acknowledge our perpetual dependence upon Thee’; and again in the