

man asks for certainty as to the facts and doctrines of the Faith, he can have in the Church of England, what he will fail to find elsewhere, viz., doctrines and a Creed unchanged and unchangeable.

THE London *Baptist* publishes the following from the "walls of a Church in Lubeck." It is just such an appeal as we may all "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest:"

You call me Master, and you do not ask my will. You call me Light and you see me not. You call me the Road, and follow me not. You call me Life, and you desire me not. You call me Wise, and imitate me not. You call me Good, and love me not. You call me Rich, and from me ask nothing. You call me Eternal, and yet do not seek me. You call me Merciful, but do not trust in me. You call me Noble, and do not serve me. You call me All-Powerful, and do not honor me. You call me Just, and do not fear me. When I condemn you, therefore, blame me not for it.

THE THREEFOLD MINISTRY.

THE three Orders of the Ministry, viz., of Bishops, Priests and Deacons, were established during the Apostolic age. Before our Lord ascended into the Heavens, He committed the government of the infant Church, into the hands of the Apostles, upon whom He bestowed the gift of the Holy Ghost (St John xx. 22). The Apostolate was the source from which the three Orders drew their life. The Apostles first ordained Deacons, then Presbyters

and finally Bishops, or successors to themselves.

a. Deacons.—The first seven Deacons were ordained by them to meet the requirements of the growing Church, the Hellenistic Jews having complained that their widows were neglected in the daily ministration at Jerusalem. This ordination, which was conferred by means of the laying on of the Apostles hands with prayer is described in Acts vii. Though not actually called "Deacons" they were appointed for the purpose of carrying on the same work as that performed by the Deacons in later times. They managed the distribution of alms, and the provision of the Agape, or love-feast, and in some cases also preached; taught, and baptized, (Acts vi. 10, viii 5, 12, 38, 40). The Deacons of the Philippian Church are referred to by S. Paul in Phil. i. 1, and the qualifications needful for the Diaconate laid down by him in 1 Tim. iii. 8-12.

b. Priests.—The order of Presbyters, or Elders, or Priests, is first mentioned in Acts xi, 30, where it is recorded that the Church in Antioch, provided relief for the Church in Judea in its distress, and sent it to the elders for distribution. We further read in Acts xiv. 23, that "Paul and Barnabas ordained Elders in every Church." The letter containing the decrees of the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem, mentioned in Acts xv. 23, is issued in the name of the "Apostles and Elders;" and the elders of the same Church are referred to in Acts xvi. 18. The Elders of the Church of Ephesus are summoned to meet S. Paul at Miletus, in Acts xx. 17, where they are also called