

digging the pit-fall of a cursed Rationalism.

5. Again, judging from the extravagant fears expressed in their late manifestoes, it would really seem that Orangemen and those who agree with them have strangely forgotten the priceless value of an *open Bible*, a primitive liturgy, and a preaching clergy. Rome to this day has practically none of these. Now, if the English Church, in this her day of revived earnestness, and with these unspeakable advantages—her Bible, her liturgy, and her liberally educated clergy—needs to tremble either before Rome, or the most ultra and unsound of her own ritualists, I must confess “so much the worse for the Church of England;” for in such case the weakness must be so deeply-seated in herself that no unhallowed attempts of the Uzzah-like hands of either Orangemen or Church Associations will be able to prevent our Anglican Ark from falling!

But, thank God, all such fears are groundless. So long as the Inspired Volume is the heritage of every English-speaking man, woman, and child, I could about as soon think of their turning Mahomedans, because a few erratic scholarly men in India are said to have done so; as I could fear lest any great numbers of our people, who have been instructed in the Bible and trained by its “keeper and witness,” the Church, should turn Papists. A few scores of individuals of unsound, impulsive, or fanciful minds, both amongst the gentle and simple—a class of persons for whom no one can answer—may cower before the Papacy or sink into the lap of Plymouth Brethrenism, or some other mere human religionism, but such persons do in no wise affect the permanent security of the Faith, as ever held by the pure and Apostolic Church of Christ.

And when the follies of the comparative handful of our Romanizing Ritualists have had their day and disappeared (and they are the merest “handful” as compared with, say, the 40,000 clergy of the Anglican and American Church), the zeal, reverence, and Gospel Faith, which, it is not to be denied, they, in common with their wiser Evangelical High Church brethren, have been the means, under God, of reviving, shall flourish as the cedar of Lebanon until churches ever open for the privilege of private devotion within their hallowed precincts; the unceasing daily sacrifice of praise and prayer; with at least a *weekly* rejoicing to flock around the sacred altar-table in “remembrance” of the “*amb newly slain*,” and to “*feed upon him by faith*,” shall be the common heritage of the members of our Reformed Holy Catholic Church.

And here, let me assure my Orange and Church Association friends, that when this is the happy condition of the Church we all so much love, but not until then, the Papacy they so much dread will assuredly bow to its fall; our separated dissenting brethren will rejoice once more to find a home in the Evangelic Ark of our Lord's own building; and then, too, shall the scoffing Scientism of this shallow age be compelled to stop the babbling of its boastful ignorance.

6th. But finally, I would, with all kindness, ask these earnest Orangemen, and also the members of the Church Association, which they appear to have taken under their patronage, whether they honestly think that they are in a position to act as individual judges concerning the deep mysteries of Christ's doctrine and worship, His “sent” ambassadors, and the ordering of His Church? Have they, with painful care, searched the “entire Scriptures,” diligently comparing one portion with another; at the same time humbly seeking the guidance of the Church thereupon, as the Master Himself directs? And, above all, have they fervently sought that Divine illumination of their fallen intellects,