

call "*superstition*" with the cross and the sign of the cross. Well, suppose it is superstition, it is a very harmless superstition, and remember that this was just what some of the Christians of S. Paul's time said about other Christians, and yet the Apostle, on behalf of the weak brethren, pleaded for toleration and concession in a matter that did not compromise principle or endanger the faith. It was a weakness on the right side, on the side of faith, not of unbelief. I am not sure that he would have as earnestly pleaded on behalf of weakness of a different kind that is far more common among us in these days. Permit me to contrast them. Here in the same church are two worshippers. One of them comes in just as he would to a concert room or club room, he stands up while other people stand up, and because they stand up, he never kneels down for prayer, but sits and lounges all through the solemn addresses of the congregation to Almighty God; during the singing of canticles and hymns he never tries to sing a line, but looks about him and criticises everything and everybody. He is a man, suppose, who, in a drawing room or at a supper table, has voice enough, but—to *sing in church*! that is not to be thought of, no more than responding above his breath, or in a scarce audible murmur, if he troubles himself about it at all; and altogether his behaviour and attitude betoken from first to last the utmost indifference and coldness, not to say irreverence, in the House of Prayer and in the presence of the Lord God of Hosts. Here is a weak brother, whom we all readily tolerate. Would S. Paul have tolerated him? Suppose another man who, as he enters the Church, bows his head and offers a prayer, for he feels that he is coming into the Presence-chamber of his God; that he is about to engage in a most solemn business, requiring every faculty of mind and body; that his very heart and thoughts are all quite open to the Eye of the Holy Being, he is about to address, and then all through the Service strives to remember with every sentence uttered *where he is and what he is doing*; speaks out *audibly* with loud voice (as he is told to do by his Church) the Responses; sings out heartily the Hymns and Psalms; kneels down in all humility; reads