

All agree in these :—

That the visible church is a congregation of faithful men, in which the word is preached, and the sacraments administered, by those lawfully appointed ; that there shall be a distinction between officials and ordinary church members ; that there shall be one order of men who have charge of spiritualities and another of secularities ; that the former shall have precedence in assemblies.

Within these lines are many divergencies of detail, but none of them are of the importance attaching to the above general principles. And churches of diverse theories approximate in practice. There is much Congregationalism in the Episcopal Church. There are officers both in the Presbyterian and Congregational churches of Canada who are truly Diocesan Bishops. Methodism in the United States is wholly Episcopal.

(5.) The relation of the Church to the State is a matter in which various opinions are held and tolerated in the same community.

In Rome, Ultramontane and Gallican hold opposite opinions on the subject.

In the English Church, as by law established, the State rules the Church. Many in that Church hold the relation to be an improper one, and would accept independence with all its disabilities.

The Presbyterian Church has been divided into at least three separate communions on this question. But experience has shown that when the occasion of difference is withdrawn these separate bodies coalesce naturally.

The Methodist body has no theory on the subject. Its divisions have all had reference to the place and power of the laity in the government of the Church.

The Congregational body once had different theories from those now prevailing. The Independent churches of Cromwell's time had a rather intimate connection with the State, a theory carried out by those offshoots which migrated to New England. For many generations the Congregational churches of New England were connected with the State—they were in fact the State Church. Of this condition of things there are remnants now in the fact that the Congregational Church in all the New England States is called the Parish Church.

It is only in recent times that Congregational churches, on both sides of the Atlantic, have adopted the theory that all connection between State and Church is wrong.