

the Bible in their hands, could say with any confidence what Christianity is, but for the authenticated interpretation of it which the Church has given us in the Prayer Book. You can hardly enumerate the various divisions and sub-divisions into which Christianity has been split, in the anarchy and prevalence of the spirit of defiance. Think of the number of their opposing creeds and forms of worship. Is it in this distracted way that the great God ought to be worshipped among men? Was it thus improvidently that the wisdom of Christ instituted the plan of human redemption? The seductive mythology of the heathens, and the fierce barbarity of the tribes that trampled down the civilization of the ancient seat of empire in which Christianity was first established, these were causes, to say nothing of Jewish prejudices, which combined with the many passions and much darkness of a world lying in wickedness, to obstruct the prosperity of the plan of Christ; but a plan it was, a plan designed in the heart of Christ, where all the resources of celestial wisdom were united; and when it pleased God at the Reformation to make His plan visible again, it reappeared luminously in England. The corruptions with which it had been overlaid for so many ages, were torn off and cast away, and after a prolonged contest with the servile defenders of its corruption, maintained by the best and wisest men I find any memory of in the history of this world, the Church of Christ came forth—the King's daughter glorious in her beauty, with the unmuffled Book of God in her one hand, and the human interpre-