

the many points of contact between the Passover and the Eucharist in Apostolic times, as well as now. In the first place, unless we hold that the Passover merged in, and was fulfilled in the Eucharist, we cannot understand those passages which say that the Passover was "to be an ordinance for ever," or "an ordinance unto thee and to thy sons for ever," (Ex. xii. 24,) no more than we can see how the predictions in the old Testament that the Jewish Priesthood should never cease (Jer. xxxiii. 17, 18,) were verified, unless by supposing that it was fulfilled in, and superseded by the Christian Priesthood. Accordingly the Laws of the Passover passed naturally, in their spiritual meaning, into the Eucharist. This is *prima facie* evidence that we are warranted in connecting the Passover and the Eucharist together, and in interpreting the latter by the former when spiritually understood. As the uncircumcised, and all persons ceremonially unclean, were prohibited from eating the Passover, so the unbaptized and the spiritually unclean, were forbidden to partake of the Eucharist, and it is to this spiritual uncleanness that St. Paul alludes when he says, "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that Cup." As those Jews who were ceremonially unclean went up to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves (St. John xi. 55,) so Christians, spiritually unclean, purify themselves for the Christian Passover, by examining themselves "whether they repent them truly of their former sins," by "making (their) humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon (their) knees," and by receiving the absolution pronounced by the Priest. Again, it was firmly believed by the Jews, that if uncircumcised or unclean persons dared to eat the Paschal Lamb, their sacrilege was punished by disease or sudden death. Similarly, in the profanation of the Christian Passover, St. Paul says, "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep," (1 Cor. xi. 30) and the Church warns profaners of the Lord's Table "that they provoke Him to plague them with divers diseases and