

have we done all we could to teach the true meaning of this belief to our people, or to the surrounding sects? Is not a great deal of the ignorance which prevails among the nominal churchmen on this subject, and much of the spirit of division which is abroad among Protestants, to be attributed to the laxity of our faith and teaching in this respect? Is it not our duty to be quite sure *ourselves* of the purity of our faith, and of the claims of our Church upon our obedience and allegiance; and thus, while exercising the utmost charity and forbearance towards those who differ from us, yet feel strong enough and bold enough to do all in our power to rescue them from their present danger? For if it be true that we have the light, we ought to let it shine around us, and we ought to be sure of it. Nay, but every man, whether churchman or dissenter, ought to feel sure of his ground, and be ready to follow the truth whatever that may be. Thousands, doubtless, there are, who must go according to the light that is in them; but if they are truly honest and sincere, they will eventually be led to the true foundation; but my great fear is that we, the clergy, are too much afraid to offend. We love popularity too much. We know that schism is sinful and we are afraid to say so. We know that we have the true Church, and we are afraid to preach it openly, lest it should wound the feelings of those who have not the same advantage. We know that there can never be any unity of Christians without this knowledge and this obedience, and yet we are not very anxious to drive away and banish all these errors from our flocks or from our neighbourhoods. I do not mean that we should attack others in a rude and unkind manner from our pulpits. This would be doing more harm than good. But there are many other ways in which charity can be set to work for recovering the lost. Good faithful catechizing, and sound books circulating, will do wonders; and above all, more unity and uniformity among the clergy themselves.

There is, however, one danger to be apprehended. In preaching or teaching our own authority, we shall be very apt to raise the cry of Popery, or of presumption. It is strange, but it is a fact, that other bodies and other preachers, may presume ever so much and they are never supposed to be presump-