

Catholics. I need hardly say that I am not going to propose any union with them. But at the same time I may mention that when I first placed a notice of my wish to call your attention to this subject upon the paper, I received from a person describing himself as a foreign Protestant converted to what he called the Catholic faith, and having devoted himself to the task of showing what that faith was, a note entreating me to allow him an interview in order that he might instruct me as to his views upon the subject. I did not think it worth while to see him, because, as I told him, I could see at once from the papers he had sent me that his notions of the Catholic Church differed very essentially from my own, and that by "the Catholic Church" he understood merely the supremacy of the Pope. I said—

"I have no wish to enter into a controversy with you, and would much rather express my concurrence in the desire that all Christians might be one in Christ. But your proposal is not for a reconciliation of Christians with one another, but for the submission of all who are not in communion with Rome to her authority. And it is by confounding the communion of the Church of Rome with the one Catholic Church that you are led into so many and so great mistakes (you will pardon my saying it) concerning the Catholic Church in England."

And there it ended; but in order to show what seems to me the principal way in which, if ever it should please God—for we may in the course of ages hope that all evil may be mitigated under His good providence—if ever it please God that that evil should be allayed, may be the principle upon which it will be allayed, I will take the liberty of reading, not my own opinion upon the subject, but the opinions of a great Primate and prelate of the Church of England—Archbishop Wake. Our Prolocutor, whose absence we all regret, but whose absence we have less reason to regret from the admirable manner in which his place has been filled, in a recent publication describes—and I am not disposed to dispute his words—Archbishop Wake as having been "incomparably the most learned writer on the subject of Convocation." I will read a few words from the correspondence of Archbishop Wake with Mr. de Beauvoir, chaplain to the British Ambassador, the Earl of Stair. Archbishop Wake was brought by Mr. de Beauvoir into communication with some of the chief members of the Gallican Church, Dr. Dupin, Dr. Piers de Girardin, and others who had talked of holding a national council of the Gallican Church to appeal against the bull *Unigenitus*, and expressed a wish for union with the Anglican Church. Archbishop Wake wrote as follows on the 18th November, 1718:—

"At present my more particular curiosity leads me to know the sentiments of the leading men in France with regard to the Court of Rome, from which, if we could once divide the Gallican Church, a reformation in other matters would follow of course. The scheme that seems to me most likely to prevail is, to agree in the independence (as to all matters of authority) of every national Church on any others; and in their right to determine all matters that arise within themselves; and for points of doctrine, to agree as far as possible in all articles of any moment (as in effect we either already do or easily may)—[I beg to observe that these words are Archbishop Wake's, and not my own]—and for other matters, to allow a difference till God shall bring us to a union in this also. One only thing should be provided for, to purge out of the public Offices of the Church such things as hinder a perfect communion in the service of the Church, that so whenever any come from us to them, or from them to us, we may all join together in prayers and in the holy sacraments with each other. In our liturgy there is nothing but what they allow of, save the single rubric relating to the Eucharist; in theirs nothing but what they agree may be laid aside, and yet the public Offices be never the worse or more imperfect for the want of it. Such a scheme as this I take to be a more proper ground of peace at the