

"Do lodges," I asked, "all depend upon such a derivation of their authority? Can there be no good masons otherwise?"

"Most certainly not. Our order goes away back to remote ages; it has been handed down through a succession of generations, by a strict observance of its rules, and a delegation of its powers only to proper authorities. So, I never worthy a set of men might be who should establish an independent lodge of masons, they would have no encouragement from the regular order, and could never be countenanced by them."

"Now see, Mr. Bradleigh," I remarked, "what a wonderful difference you make between masonry and the Church. Here we have a Divine institution, a Church founded by our blessed Saviour, handed down to us, as we Churchmen say, by a regular and necessary succession. Yet we find a class of people, like yourself, claiming the right to establish a Church outside of the regular organization. And yet, at the same time, another institution, founded by man, you think, should not be attacked in such a manner. Is this consistent? Is it right? Believe me, my dear sir, it is no mere sentimentality which seeks to prove, and hold on by, the apostolic succession. It is a right; it is a duty; the apostolic succession is the great safeguard of the Church. If we admit that any body of men, at any time, may institute a Church, and ordain a ministry with no other authority than such as they naturally possess, we have no barrier against error, no safety from monstrous institutions, even though they might go to an excess equal to that of Mormonism."

As we arrived near our homes. I parted from my companion, as he was expressing his opinion that we had talked of something which he had not previously thought much about.—*Selected.*

### SHEEP GONE ASTRAY.

THERE are a great many communicants of the Church who are not enrolled on the Church Register of any Parish whatever. By removal from their Church to another part of the city, they have dropped out of sight. Others have moved into some suburban village, and been lost sight of. A few years ago the writer of this went out on the line of one of our railroads, and stopping at the different stations to enquire for communicants of the Church, by the time he had reached to the tenth mile station, he had found over forty communicants, who, for many years, had not been to Communion, or inside a Church, or been visited by a clergyman. No notice had been given to their Rector on removal, and for years they had been lost to him. We need missionaries to hunt up these scattered and straying sheep, and bring them once more into the fold. One of our strongest suburban parishes owes its existence to such a house-to-house-going visitation. There were not enough Church-people in the town, it was asserted, to form the nucleus of a congregation, when lo! a canvass of the town gathered up nearly seventy persons who would attend the services and help to support them, and the result is palpable to the eye to-day in a large, elegant Church, a Chapel, and a Rectory.—*Selected.*