

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," was not addressed to the Disciples as Apostles, but as Disciples simply; for it is added, "and lo I am with you alway, (or every day) even unto the end of the world." It was the commission of the Church, whose members are Christ's witnesses, and not of the Apostles, as the rulers and teachers of that Church, for they did not continue for ever, and their office—the apostleship—was evidently an extraordinary one, in which they had *no successors*.* They were the first Church, and represented the Churches of the Faithful throughout all ages; and to them was en-

* It is agreed on all sides that the Apostleship was an office of an extraordinary character; and the most strenuous advocates of the High-Church uninterrupted-Succession scheme, are compelled to acknowledge that the Apostles, in their character and office of extraordinary messengers, *had no successors*. That the Apostles were ordinary ministers, as well as extraordinary messengers, I nowhere read in the word of God; so that the establishment of ministerial prerogative and rule upon Apostolic precedent, cannot but be regarded as both unwarranted and unnecessary—as unwarranted, because the Apostles were not ordinary ministers; they were disciples or learners of Christ, and His Divinely commissioned messengers to the world, specially consecrated and miraculously endowed for the great work of propagating Christianity, and establishing and setting in order the Churches to be gathered out from among men, through their instrumentality—and as unnecessary as the character, qualifications, duties and privileges of the Christian minister are clearly defined, and fully insisted on in the Apostolic epistles.

The idea of *personal* succession, appears so ridiculous, that I am at a loss to account for the strange infatuation of those who profess to believe it. Who can believe that men are called of God to fill offices in His Church, who are not only unfit to discharge the duties thereof, but possessed of characters utterly opposed to those required by the Word of God? In every thing in nature there is adaptation, but in this there is nothing but unmixed repulsion! In the New Testament there is nothing of this Succession scheme, and the advo-