

could not then have been garbled to suit a purpose. I urged this discussion on the ground of *Scripture alone*, and Dr. Gray declined it on the same ground. I see no connexion between my *claim* in this respect and a denial, in *consequence*, of the Doctrines of the Church! As to my adherence to the Church of England, I do not yield in that respect to Dr. Gray himself! I do not adhere to it, indeed, because it is an Establishment, or because it *suits my interests*; but simply because it is, as it professes to be, a "Catholic Church," built upon the "foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the head corner stone." If Dr. Gray had felt the deep interest in me which he professed to feel, he would have sought a private and friendly discussion on these subjects; whereas I sought it, and he avoided it. The truth is, his intention was to increase the difficulty, and not to lessen it. His superseding me in the Pulpits was, indeed, an act of peculiar kindness, and well adapted to *conciliate*! He might much better have not *assigned* any motive for that course of proceeding.

But let us refer again to the expressions in the "suppressed" letter just alluded to. One is as follows: "I know evangelical people, so called, who are at times full of the evil spirit, for they can live and act in opposition to the Gospel rules; and believing this to be incompatible with the real knowledge of the truth, I conceive it just possible that they *may* have embraced falsehood, or which is still worse, have falsified the truth."

This had reference to distinct impressions made upon my mind by certain people of that class, who make great professions; and these impressions have been increasing ever since the note of January 11th was written. I had felt the influence of evil passions emanating from such persons; and I am fully persuaded that malignant influences are still emanating from the same source.

There is another allusion in the above letter, which is rather a strong expression, under ordinary circumstances. It is as follows: "With regard to the Hierarchy, I have nothing to ask from it; and as a system, it is false and corrupt. The lust of rule, from the self-love of the mere natural man, is the cleaving curse of the Church."

What has been the experience of St. John for many years past, in *this* respect? What has been the "system" here?

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