

no press at my command to publish my heterodox sentiments, such privileges being only for the orthodox in these days, still, I must venture a little for the sake of the Church, and for the sake of Christ's promises. I know not whether this sermon is to be regarded as expressive of the views of the assembled Clergy and laity, I shall only speak for myself, when I say, *I most cordially dissent from any such theology.* I love our Church too much, to derive any "golden chain" from Rome, the Apostate! I respect Christ's promise too much, to make it depend upon the *contingency* of any *such* succession. I think our church's claim to Apostolic, rests upon far more important and undeniable evidence than any such succession, however "glowingly" described, or rendered attractive by meretricious "chains" and "links." But, what in *reality* becomes of our Church, if we interpret the promise to Peter, as "the eloquent" preacher of that sermon does? "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock will I build my Church, and the *gates of hell* shall not prevail against her." This preacher, who addresses a Protestant Synod, believes that a *visible* Church with a successional ministry is here announced. If so, then also the other promise which follows is likewise for this successional ministry in Peter; "whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; whose soever sins ye remit they are remitted; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." The "Church of Rome" may surely rejoice after this! The Church of England,—our beloved Church,—may for ever hang her harp on the willows!—Rome's thunder may now reverberate; her