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Bible before him, could attain; and if aught I may write seem to you dogmatic, crude, or unsound, I know you will not construe it as the mark of a perverted mind or the want of a becoming modesty, but as having the force, to my mind, of great and unanswerable facts.

Nothing is more plainly set forth in Scripture than God's design, that His people should be joined together as one body, sometimes known therein as the family, the flock, the kingdom or the Church, but always set forth as possessing a sacred and mysteriously intimate union. Over this Body or Church he is the Supreme and only Governor, ruling, guiding and directing His people on earth, not only by the direct influence of His Spirit on individuals, but also by means of a form of government in the Church itself. *What is this form of government: and in whom is the governing authority vested?*

Let me in the outset insist upon the deep moment of the subject. Whether ecclesiastical authority should flow from properly constituted Heads of the Church on earth downwards to the people, or from the people upwards, may seem to some to be so overshadowed by the grander doctrines of the Christian Faith, as to demand for their right comprehension, study not very profound nor prayer very earnest. I grant that we can never care too anxiously for the health of that inner religious life which clothes all the outward with form and holy