

He did enable His chosen, as He has said they must in order to eternal life, "to eat his flesh and drink His blood." That is, early Christians and our forefathers rejoiced to think that the Father does impart the efficacy of His Divine Son's humanity to the bread, and wine when blessed by His appointed ambassadors, insomuch that, as our own Prayer Book does so scripturally and evangelically still teach, "The body and blood of Christ are verily and indeed taken and received by the faithful in the Lord's Supper;" through these creature elements of bread and wine, thus elevated by the power of Him who spake a world from nought, to so glorious a mystery.

4th. They further believed in the peculiar powers of the Episcopate; that its members are the Divinely appointed rulers of the Church, being alone authorized by Christ to perpetuate His ministry with all its sacred powers and functions. It was at their bishop's hands also, that they ever sought to obtain afresh the strengthening grace of the Holy Spirit in confirmation; and, in its highest measure, the more ordinary privileges of priestly blessing and grace.

5th. Finally, the primitive saints, and indeed our fathers, believed that self-denial fastings and alms deeds are ordinances of grace to those who faithfully use them; yea, and so necessary that without their accompaniment, prayer itself becomes a barren sacrifice. Hence, they did not satisfy themselves with an easy flesh-pleasing service; nor yet were they content to "offer unto the Lord their God of that which cost them nothing."

They felt that they needed deeply to humble themselves before God; and that also they were beset by those sinful lusts of the flesh which continually require to be mortified and "kept under;" therefore, like their Divine Master and His Apostles, they were "in fastings often."

So, in like manner, their alms deeds were abundant. They would have esteemed it as bitter mockery to have offered their prayers to God, and yet to have withheld from His Church and poor what we should deem a very large portion of their worldly substance. Supplications for an inheritance amid the lavish splendours of the New Jerusalem offered in a neglected, barn-like Church; or prayers in our own closets for our "daily