

have not one idea which animates your material unity and makes you one, as the soul gives unity to the body and constitutes man's personality. You have your High Church, Low Church, and Broad Church parties, each of these has something of an animating idea ; but the Church of England, as a whole, has no personality. In the event of advances such as you desire, being made by the Holy See for a corporate reunion, there is no one who could treat in the name of the whole body ; no one who could be treated with. The bench of Bishops is utterly at variance on first principles ; there is no one supreme principle which binds them together, unless, indeed, it be the principle of the Royal Supremacy. On this you could not take your stand ; you do not even all hold it in the same sense. In fact, it is because you have really given it up, except in words, that you are prepared to accept the Papal Primacy, which is its contradictory. Those who hold it in the old legal sense of the Tudor Sovereigns and the founders of the Anglican Church, would not, and could not, join with you in any steps towards reconciliation with Rome.

— I admit that. Of course the Low Church and Broad Church Bishops and their party would not join with us.

— Then, I understand, that by Corporate Reunion you do not mean the reunion of the Established Church with the Church Catholic, but of a Section of the Church, cleared by their own Secession or that of their opponents from the rest of the Anglican community.

— Well, yes, I suppose it would come to that ; nothing else would be feasible.

— But then, I would ask, are those who think with you sufficiently united, numerous, and influential to be able to carry the great body of Bishops, clergy, and people with you ?

— I do not know ; certainly the Bench of Bishops would not stir, or rather would be actively opposed to the movement.

— Then it is clear that those who think with you have no foothold in the Establishment ; and the first step you would have to take would be to constitute yourselves a Separate body, by seceding from the Establishment and becoming a Free Church, independent of the State and the State Bishops.