

so? What signs do we see? Let the psalmist give the answer: "For why, thy servants think upon her stones, and it pitieth them to see her in the dust." I hold that the first thing is the spirit to deplore and hate sectarian divisions; and further, I hold that when this spirit turns into general prayer and supplication, the Holy Spirit is able to do the rest, and to realize the Mediator's will, "that they all may be one." Essentially one, be it observed. Not sentimentally so, but practically, vitally, essentially; after the highest pattern in the universe, the essential unity of the holy and undivided Trinity. "Lord, increase our faith."

But multitudes of good people despair, though despair is deadly sin, and grieves the Holy Ghost. And out of mere inability to recognize the mighty power of the Spirit, they doubt, like St. Thomas, and their doubts beget mere compromises. I hold that where we do not see the way, the right spirit, exercised in prayer and patient waiting, is all God requires. It is doing our part. And here comes in the text and its precious context: "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." Thus we shall discover the way.

The *perfect* here are not the *perfected*, but those who are "perfect and entire, wanting nothing" in the means and instruments of grace. And if such there be, here is their rule; but I look to the apostles and their primitive followers as the example here set before us. Let us be conformed to that, and God shall reveal and open His way, "make it known upon earth," and so, through the Church, extend "His saving health among all nations."

Mere compromises fall short of the mark, and effect nothing but failure and consequent discouragement. Of this one may find an example and a warning in the well-meant effort of Frederick William III. to establish a united Protestantism in Prussia. It was entirely based on compromise, and has satisfied nobody. The unity of mere compromise aims to settle everything by alliance, and to draw up schemes for ratification by protocol and treaty. They must always prove abortive. Not such is the "way of God." Convinced of this, profoundly convinced that there must be root-principles to organic unity, out of which it grows and is "not strained," the bishops of our Anglican communion have set forth, for the consideration of their fellow-Christians, not their own views of the root-principles, but the views of the ancient Church Catholic of Christ. Such were the principles cherished by all when the Church was indeed "at unity with itself," and which were never forfeited till the Roman pontiff prescribed another and a novel criterion, by force of which the Latins soon severed themselves from the grand root and trunk of Christendom, the maternal churches of the East: the churches amid which the last of the Apostles lingered, till they had all received the joints and bands of unity, and a universal polity which provided "that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another."

But our Christian brethren of other communions must be regarded as having rejected the "Lambeth quadrilateral," as it has been not unkindly called; and not only so, for they have hastily and impulsively refused even to consider the nature and the underlying history of one of these four propositions, which (as they regard it) is a wanton affront, rather than a kiss of peace. I do not wonder that it strikes them so while they refuse to look at it not as ours, but as the principle of vertebrate unity, prescribed by the Church of the primitive ages, and universally accepted as of apostolic origin and authority; not as ours in any sense, but as an apostolic principle prescribed to us, and to which, as we yield obedience ourselves, we desire that others should do the same. Is this desire unfriendly or unkind? We have presented it as the voice of the Nicene Age, to be examined and weighed—but first of all to be comprehended. Our brethren resent it, as if it were the