

I. Cor. xii. 25.—“ That there should be no schism in the body.”

I. Cor. xii. 27.—“ Now ye are the body of Christ.”

St. Paul, in this chapter, proves the visible unity of the Church by the visible unity of all the members of the human body. Can sects do this ?

1. Cor. xi. 19.—For there must be also heresies (or sects) among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” We pray in the Litany against “ heresies and schisms,” because both these errors were ever classed together.

Philip iii. 2.—“ Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the Concision.”

The Apostle was here speaking of those who were causing divisions in those times. Dogs tear and scatter the flock. What would you say if he were among us now and using the same language as applied to the makers of sects ? The concision is a rent, a split, a cut, made in the body. Can a clergyman be wrong when he imitates the Apostle warning his people against “ the concision,” or the great sin of schism ? This sin has now become so popular that it is almost a virtue. Some actually say *the more sects the better!* Is it worse to speak against sects than to pray against schism ? And no dissenter can come to church when the Litany is read without hearing us pray against schisms.

Then see what St. Jude says of those “ who separate themselves,” (v. 19) “ who speak evil of dignities,” who “ speak evil of those things which they know not,” who are “ carried about of winds,” who are “ murmurers, complainers,” “ having men’s persons in admiration,” and “ perish in the gainsaying of Core !”

Doubtless all this applies to the *makers* of sects more than to those whose lot is innocently cast in among them.

Hear again what St. Paul says : 1 Cor. i. 10. “ Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among ye, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” And v. 18. “ Is Christ divided ?” And chapt. iii. 4. “ For ye are yet carnal. For whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men ?” II. Cor. xiii. 11. “ Be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of peace shall be with you.”