"Ideo ergo erraverunt a ventre, quia locuti sunt falsa? An potius ideo locuti sunt falsa, quia erraverunt a ventre? In ventre quippe Ecclesiæ Veritas manet. Quisquis ab hoc ventre Ecclesiæ separatus fuerit, necesse est ut falsa loquatur. Necesse est inquam ut falsa loquatur. Quia aut concipi noluit aut quem conceptum mater excussit."

"Did they, therefore, go astray from the womb because they spoke false things? Or rather, have they not spoken false things because they went astray from the womb? For it is in the womb of the Church that Truth remaineth. Whosoever is separated from this womb of the Church must necessarily speak false things. I repeat he must, of necessity, speak what is false. For either he would not be conceived, or if conceived, was cast out by the Mother."

(B.) The cry that the Church has fallen away, has been corrupted, taught idolatry, and that, therefore, the Gates of Hell have prevailed against her, is common to all the opponents of the Catholic Church. A similar cry was raised fourteen hundred years ago by her enemies of that day, and it was met by St. Augustine in language (the most severe, perhaps, that is to be found in any part of his numerous writings,) which shows with what horror he regarded the Blasphemy which it involves:—In his comment on the CI. Psalm, 23 v. *When the people assemble together and Kings to serve the Lord*, he writes:—

"In conveniendo populos in unum, et regna ut serviant Domino. Sed, illa Ecclesia quæ fuit omnium gentium, jam non est: periit. Hoc dicunt qui in illa non sunt. O impudentem vocem! Illa non est, quia tu in illa nones? Vide ne tu ideo non sis; nam illa erit, etsi tu non sis. Hanc vocem abominabilem et detestabilem, presumptionis et falsitatis plenam, nulla veritate suffultam, nulla sapientia illuminatam, nullo sale conditam, vanam, temerariam, præcipitem, perniciosam, prævidit Spiritus. Dei, et tanquam contra illas eum annunciaret Unitatem: *In conveniendo populos in unum*, &c., quoniam quidam dicturi erant contra: Fuit et non est—*exiguitatem*, inquit *dierum meorum annuncia mihi.* Quid est quod nescio qui recedentes a me, murmurant contra me? Quid est quod perditi me periisse contendunt? Certe enim hoc dicunt quia fui et non sum. *Annuncia mihi exiguitatem dierum meorum.* Non a te quæro illos dies æternos. Illi sine fine sunt ubi ero: non ipsos quæro. Temporales quæro; temporales dies mihi annuncia *Exiguitatem* dierum meorum, non æternitatem nuncia mihi. Quamdiu ero in isto sæculo, annuncia mihi propter illos qui dicunt: Fuit et jam non est. Propter illos qui dicunt, impletæ sunt scripturæ, crediderunt omnes gentes, sed Apostatavit et periit Ecclesia de omnibus gentibus. Quid est hoc: *Exiguitatem dierum meorum annuncia mihi?* Et annunciavit, nec vacua fuit vox ista. Quis annunciavit mihi nisi Ipsa Via? Quomodo annunciavit? *Ecce ego vobiscum sum usque ad consummationem seculi.*"

"In the assembling of the people in one, and Kingdoms to serve the Lord. But, that Church which was the Church of all Nations, exists no longer. She has perished. This is said by those who are not in her. O impudent cry! She exists not, because you do not belong to her. Take care that for that very reason you have not lost your own existence; for she will exist, though you do not. This abominable and detestable cry, full of presumption and deceit, supported by no truth, enlightened by no wisdom, seasoned by no salt; this vain, rash, headlong and pernicious cry the Spirit of God foresaw, when, as if against those who use it, he proclaimed her Unity, saying: *In assembling the people in one, and Kingdoms to serve the Lord.* Because some in after times were to say against her, *She was;* but *she is no longer*, therefore, she said: (in the prophetic words of the Psalmist) *show me the fewness of my days.* Why