

in the very first century of the Christian Era we find multitudes led away from the true Faith by the *Docetæ*, who denied the humanity of Christ, and by the *Ebionites* whose opinions were destructive of His Divinity. It would, however, be a most inconclusive style of argument to maintain, that the principles of the Gospel favored those delusions because some who had at one time embraced and propagated the truth subsequently labored to extend the influence of error.

Again, the principles for which our Reformers strove, and suffered, and died, are admitted by all faithful churchmen to be true principles, but can we forget the terrible excesses into which vast multitudes of all classes fell at that eventful period ?

It was not a few here and there who forsook the Church, and adopted as truth some figment of their own imagination, but both in England and abroad, the shoal of heresies that arose in direct consequence of that great movement, though in direct contradiction to its true principles, (at least as held in the Church of England) is almost appalling to contemplate.

The Anabaptists, the Mennonites, the Socinians, the Family of Love, the Schwenkfeldians, the Brownists, embraced a mass of persons whose number it would be difficult to estimate. These men went with the Reformers as long as their proceedings accorded with their own fanatic or dreamy fancies, but when the Reformers stopped, they were ready to denounce them because they refused to run to the same excess of spiritual riot with themselves.

Are we therefore to condemn the Reformation because it was accompanied by many lamentable abuses, or be-