

"of God *for ever* will be with him just as much whether he kneels beside a drunkard or a saint."

As to discipline among communicants, of course it should be used, but with prayerful care. We may warn, rebuke, and admonish, and, in some cases, excommunicate, but we have no right to excommunicate as long as the erring one promises amendment, or to excommunicate any one simply because he does not come up to Mr. Darby or Mr. Grant's regulation standard of piety. The rule of the Church of England is plain enough on the subject. Its excommunication is not a tearing up, but a discipline of mercy which, whilst it excommunicates, does so in the earnest hope that the sheep will return to the fold, where a kind voice is ever waiting to welcome it.

Lastly I would notice Mr. Grant's puny argument based on the expression "on this rock *I will* build my Church."

He says: "Could our Lord say '*I will* build my Church' if it was built before?" I reply it is not likely our Lord would, inasmuch as *the* Christian Church, was not built before; but God's Church was. In proof of this I refer Mr. Grant to the texts already quoted in this tract as found in the Septuagint version of the Scriptures. A slight acquaintance with that version will at once shew him that the word "Ecclesia" is perhaps as common a term in the Old Testament as it is in the New.

I now leave Mr. Grant with a firm conviction that he believes in a Visible Church just as much as I do. His Kingdom in which the good and bad are mixed is the Visible Church. He may not call it so, but perhaps he will yet see that any religious organization to which God has committed the Gospel, the power of the Keys and into which men are admitted by Baptism, must be the Church and nothing else, and when he comes to see this then he will remember that the wheat and the tares are to grow together in that kingdom till the second advent, and that Messrs. Darby, Stanley, Macintosh, and others, have been rushing in the face of Scripture for the last thirty years in striving to make the separation.

* Tares and Wheat, page 7.