

The phrase, "spiritual power," was further defined as including "not only the charge of worship, religious culture, and moral discipline, but also the organization of charities, the whole field of education, and the advance of truth, ethical, religious, scientific, and social ; in a word, all the intellectual, moral, and religious interests of human society." The Roman Church of the Middle Ages being the most complete example of such a power, its foundation was exhibited as consisting in: 1. The Deity of Christ, with the derived dogmas of the Real Presence and Apostolical Succession ; 2. The Augustinian religious fatalism, making men helplessly dependent on church offices ; 3. The doctrines of Hell and Purgatory, which made the first of ecclesiastical discipline ; as well as the great social services rendered by that Church.

The Church was next assumed as "even less a teacher of truth than a social fact and a social power ;" and the conditions of that power were next alluded to, as adapted to the present age. The Church was further defined, as (in the mystical language of the Testament) "the spiritual body, corresponding to the exterior and visible body, whether of the parish, the State, or the Christian world ;" or as "the aggregate of those living religious agencies which we methodize and incorporate in our associated religious life." Its office was next set forth : first, as dealing in personal spiritual culture, and next with needed charities and existing wrongs. And the first essential want in the construction of that power was stated to be, "a clearly recognized basis of authority on which it may rest—an authority as absolute and independent as that of the Roman Church, but suited to a set of conditions wholly different and new... authority so broad, and clear, and firm as to redeem the mind from feebleness and fear ; so generous as to win, by pure spiritual persuasion and the omnipotence of truth, the willing reverence of men ; so strong as to hold in check an age of passionate and wayward liberty."