

Christians, to trust in God, and in the Great Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, that all things may work together for good. It will avail us little to cry out in madness or lose heart in despair, "for if this work be of men, it will come to nought, but if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it." "In quietness," then, "and confidence is our strength;" and while some cry one thing, and some another; "that the Church of England is going to Rome," "that the Church of England is going to break up," let us not give heed to either, but "quit ourselves like men, and be strong." I say boldly that men who speak thus are not the Church's friends. Better for us to have only the "three hundred" to which Gideon's army was reduced, than the "two and twenty thousand" who were sent home again because they were fearful and afraid, or lest they should say, "Mine own hand hath saved me." The hour of trial or the hour of danger is not the time for good soldiers to give up through fear or despair. I deny that the Church of England is going "Rome-ward" because some few have their face set as though they *would* go. And I deny that she will "break up," for I believe with all my soul that the Church of England is a branch of the Catholic Church of Christ, "in which the pure word of God is preached, and the Sacraments are duly administered;" and, therefore, I have confidence in the promise that "the gates of hell cannot prevail against her.

The Church of Christ has been a *suffering* Church from the day that her Great Head hung on the cross to the present day. It was given to her to fill up by suffering "that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ." Our Blessed Lord plainly stated that such was to be her lot in the world, and her whole history proves the truth of what He said, for in every age she has had, like S. Paul, "to bear in the body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Only read the story of her trials in the first centuries, well called her purest days, because of the zeal with which she contended for and proclaimed "the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Through the midst of the trials and persecutions of that day, though often perplexed, she never despaired, and held up boldly the lamp of light and truth, with which she had been put in trust.

Witness that long dark period of usurpation of the rights of our own English branch, when, for nearly nine hundred years, Rome,