

STANDPOINT OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC ON RELIGION.



CORPORATE reunion or the movement of Ritualists.

— To-day, after having stated so many facts of history, I want to have some leisure for discussing the relative position of yourselves and the Greeks in respect to the centre of unity, and also the feasibility in your case of Corporate reunion.

— I am really anxious to hear how you will treat the subject of Corporate Reunion, a project towards which, in England, many more hearts are setting than probably you imagine. The association of the English Church Union has several thousand members and many persons of the highest position in Church and State.

— I accept your facts, friend, and assuming them to be correct, they certainly represent a most important phase of the Catholic movement in your Church.

— Just so, I feel convinced that if the authorities of Rome were properly informed that thousands of Anglicans are anxious for reunion, they would be met in the same way in which the Greeks were met at Florence ; and as there are no political jealousies and temporal questions likely, as in the case of the Greeks, to keep the two Churches apart, I should hope that the near future might witness the reunion.

— God grant it may be so, noble friend, but somehow this idea of corporate reunion does not fit into my head. As regards the Greeks the case was very different ; and if the Anglicans were in the position of the Greeks, no doubt what the Church did once she would do again, but there are great difficulties in the way.

— How do you mean that our case is so different from that of the Greeks ? What are those difficulties ? Pray, state them.

— They are mainly these : first — you are not a corporate body, except in a material sense ; you have no internal principle of cohesion by which you can act as a moral body ; you