

ages of the Christian world, no Church ever perceiving the word of God to be against it. We require you to find out but one Church upon the face of the whole earth that hath been ordered by your discipline, or hath not been ordered by ours, that is to say the Episcopal regiment since the time that the blessed Apostles were here conversant." Not until the days of Luther, Melancthon, Zuingle and Calvin—after 1500 years of Universal Episcopacy—is this great Church principle attacked, and then attacked not because the principle itself was obnoxious, but because it was conceived to be a necessary part of an obnoxious system. These great Reformers would gladly have adopted the same course pursued by the English Reformers in *reforming* the Church instead of founding a new one, if they had deemed the same possible. It was not Episcopacy which drove them out; they would gladly have carried it with them. Listen to one short extract from Melancthon in his apology for the Augsburg Confession, keeping in mind too the recent action of your Church: "I would to God it lay in me to restore the government of Bishops. For I see what manner of Church we shall have, the Ecclesiastical polity being dissolved. *I see that hereafter there will grow up a greater tyranny in the Church than there ever was before.*" These good men left the old polity, but they did not rush into Congregationalism; it was bad enough that they had to give up the government of the Bishops, they would