

of their faith and that increase of their grace which resulted from sincere attendance upon those public assemblies of the Church, whereby the blessed Jesus is already "glorified in His saints, and *openly* admired in all them that believe," that they became possessed of the desire for, and the power to ~~to exercise~~ those earnest, frequent, and oftentimes long continued private devotions, to which we have before alluded, as distinguishing the members of Christ in former days.

2nd. They believed that to the Christian Priesthood,* who had been duly ordained by the Apostles or their successors. Jesus had given the same priestly powers that He Himself possessed; according again to His own words, "*As the Father hath sent me, so send I you;*" and to the commands which He had given them to "*remit sins,*" to excommunicate, to bless, to baptize, &c. Indeed, they doubted not but that like as Christ after giving the Apostles their commission as His ambassadors, breathed on them, saying, "*Receive ye the Holy Ghost,*" and that as St. Paul declares, the Holy Ghost had been imparted to St. Timothy, "*by the laying on of his hands,*" so also their clergy receive the Holy Ghost at their ordination, not then for personal sanctification, but as our own Prayer Book says, "*for the office and work of a priest in the Church of God.*" Therefore, they

* I have used the words "priest" and "priestly," and cognate terms, advisedly. I have done so for the sake of distinctness; and because I know of no name for the second order of the Christian ministry, so scriptural, so evangelical, so primitive, and so proper in the mouth of a faithful son of the Anglican Church. "So scriptural,"—it was the name given by Jehovah Himself to those ecclesiastical officers, who were a portion of that dispensation which was, as Holy Scripture states, the type or shadow, of which the Heavenly or Christian Church is the substance. But yet more strongly, Christ positively declares that the Apostolic Ministry share His office, why then should they fear, or be ashamed to share the name of His office, and avow themselves "priests" with Him, whose highest human office is being the "Great High Priest of our profession."

"Evangelical,"—no appellation more distinctly teaches that our office derives all its efficacy from its intimate connection with the Priesthood of Christ Himself, so also as its name implies, its very noblest function is offering not a *bloody and propitiatory sacrifice* as the Papists do arrogantly, if not blasphemously pretend, but a *memorial sacrifice*, which conveys afresh the efficacy of the sufferings and death of the blessed Jesus to those who faithfully receive it.

"Primitive,"—being terms which can be traced to a very early period; as may be seen at once in the learned ecclesiastical antiquary, Bingham, Archdeacon