

demoniacal possession passed away, and, behind the teaching of the "faith-cure" sects, (who, by the by, have, I believe, revived the unction of the sick,) and behind the teaching of so-called Christian Science, with all its absurdities, there lies a truth, the suppression of which, one feels, has led in these days to the punishment of the Church by an outbreak of childish and disastrous heresy. In fact, I may say, that it has been conversations with people who have either gone over to Christian Science or are favourable to it, which first brought this subject distinctly before me.

What then is the scriptural warrant for the Unction of the Sick, and what its history in the Christian Church?

The scriptural authority for the Unction of the Sick is limited to two passages in the New Testament. S. Mark, V 1-13, and S. James, V-14.

In the former, we are told that the Apostles "anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them." In the latter, St. James says: "Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders (presbyters or priests) of the Church; and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins they shall be forgiven him."

Now, there can be no reasonable doubt that the anointing recommended in this second passage is the same as that which the Apostles used when they were sent out two by two by our Lord. The first instance of anointing was a foreshadowing of the second, just as many things in the Jewish Church were the germs of and anticipated higher spiritual ordinances under the Christian dispensation. By the time the Epistle of St. James was written, the Church was fully established and equipped, and Christian ordinances had then assumed their final form and efficacy; so that it is to the latter passage that we look for justification of the Anointing of the Sick, rather than to the former. The question is then, what does the passage in S. James mean? It means exactly what it says: "the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." The anointing with oil, in the name of the Lord, was for the purpose of supernaturally raising the sick person up to health. That with the bodily healing there went a spiritual