

But is it to be supposed from hence that we deem all those who have unhappily lost, or wandered from the Apostolic Ministry, out of the reach of God's mercy and salvation through Jesus Christ? Not so, Brethren; we deem indeed the Apostolic office essential to the existence of a rightly-constituted Church, so that we are obliged to say with ancient writers, that * "without a Bishop there is no Church named;" yet we do not deem it essential to salvation in those who have, through error and not through wilful sin, departed from this ordinance of Christ; and we believe that there will be many, whose penitence and faith and piety will be accepted through our Saviour, although they may unwittingly have added to, or diminished the Ministry appointed in Christ's Church.

Still, it is the duty of all who are Members of the Church of England, to guard and cherish with the most earnest care and watchfulness that inestimable deposit which Providence has committed to her, of the Apostolic Ministry in its purest form; for the time may come, and we believe it will come, when the tendency to superstition on the one hand and to division on the other, shall have passed away from the minds of men; that it will be found to be of inestimable value that there is still abiding in the Church of England uncorrupted and uninjured, the Office and Ministry which our Lord gave to His Apostles, and with which He promised to be even unto the end of the world.

Having thus endeavoured to point out to you, from a deep conviction of its great importance, the authority and continuance of the Apostolic Ministry in the Church, we proceed in the second place, to advert to some of the qualifications necessary to those, who desire to be admitted to any part of the arduous and sacred duties of the Ministry.

The call to the Ministerial Office is twofold, the one inward, by the secret operation of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men, the other outward by their being ordained, and receiving a Commission and Authority, to exercise the office of the Ministry, from those to whom the power to impart it has been committed by our Lord and His Apostles.

Of the latter, having already discoursed at large, we shall only now add, that even if we set aside for a moment all the proofs which substantiate the succession of the Ministry in its various orders from the Apostles; such succession is evidently the doctrine of our Church, which in the preface to the Service for the Ordination of Deacons declares, that "it is evident unto all men diligently reading the Holy Scripture and ancient authors, that from the Apostles' times there have been these three orders of Ministers in Christ's Church, Bishops, Priests and Deacons."

And that this is also held by the Church to be of *Divine Institution*, is farther manifest from these words in one of the prayers for the Ordination of Priests, "Almighty God, giver of all good things who

* "Nulla Ecclesia sine Episcopo," is stated to have been a maxim throughout the Primitive Church.