

ward communion, may, as an abstract possibility, be bound together in the Spirit ; but none may venture to assure himself that he is a member of the mystical body of Christ unless he derive that assurance from the use of those sacred means to which Christ has given the power of conveying it, and which he has made the pledge to our souls that it is conveyed.

That there is also a personal priesthood of individual believers is not denied by the majority of Anglican authors. By this personal priesthood he may draw near to God in prayer, repentance and confession ; by it he has a right to the Holy Scriptures and the Sacred Name which is the sum of all creeds. But the life, of which this is an expression, springs out of the sacrament of baptism in the first instance, and is constantly nourished by the Holy Communion, which is the brook in the Christian's way. The outward and personal nourishment of grace must be constantly mingled with the ecclesiastical and sacramental to produce the full stature of the perfect man.

This view that the endowment with the Spirit and all grace must be generated by the Sacramental operations of an episcopally ordained clergy, might be disputed on the ground of the absence of all proper Scriptural proof—nay, on the very opposite bearing of all the New Testament allusions and the whole spirit of the Apostolic Church as unfolded in the inspired history. It might also be disputed on the ground of ecclesiastical history and the ablest scholars of the Episcopal communion called to bear witness against it. But there is a much more practical and easily understood refutation. It consists of an appeal to the signs of the Spirit's presence and undoubted operation among those who have no such priesthood, and consequently no such sacraments, as are declared to be virtually necessary to the very existence of Christianity.

That the sacramental system has produced many eminent saints, men in whose pure and consecrated lives the Holy Spirit breathed in rich measure we thankfully admit. But that by this system alone such spirit-filled lives have been cultivated,