

scent, thus both Catholic *and* Protestant, a privilege for which we should be deeply grateful to the providence and grace of God? And will not the account we shall have to render be awful, if we neglect, despise, or forego the advantages thus placed within our reach?

Let us ever remember, that the primary object for which the Church was instituted by Christ, its Author and Finisher, and for which the apostolical succession of its ministers was established,—that the primary object for which through ages of persecution, and ages of prosperity, and ages of darkness, and ages of corruption, and ages of reformation, and ages of Latitudinarianism, and now in an age of rebuke and blasphemy, now when we have fallen on evil days and evil tongues, the primary object for which the church has still been preserved by a providential care, marvellous sometimes, if not miraculous in our eyes, was, and is to convey supernaturally the saving merits of the atoning blood of the Lamb of God, and the sanctifying graces of his Holy Spirit, to the believer's soul. In the church it is, that the appointed means are to be found by which that mysterious union with Christ is promoted in which our spiritual life consists—in her it is, that the third person of the Blessed Trinity abideth for ever, gradually to change the heart of sinful man, and to make that flesh which he finds stone—gradually to prepare us for heaven, while our ascended Saviour is preparing heaven for us. And, oh! my brethren, what a privilege it is to have this well of living waters, in which you may wash and be clean! You know that you are sinful creatures, very far gone from righteousness; you know that your condition is such, that you cannot turn and prepare yourselves by your own natural strength and good works to faith and calling upon God; you know that by nature you cannot love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul and strength: you cannot discharge the various duties of your various situations in life; you know that whatever your condition now may be, the hour must come of affliction and sorrow, of sickness and sadness, the inevitable hour of death; and the Church is instituted to convey to you pardon upon your repentance, and grace in time of need; it is instituted to instruct you in your ignorance, to