

and thousands of well-intentioned men living in separation from the Church, in sheer ignorance of their danger, *and this principally because God's ministers have never taught them the real truth.* The true doctrine of the unity of the Church, and the sinfulness of schism, has not been preached as it ought to have been from our pulpits. Many ministers have rather encouraged Dissenters in their delusion, by telling them that their faith is orthodox, and their differences trivial; neglecting at the same time to teach them that there was a doubtfulness as to the validity of their sacraments, and that separation from the apostolic Church was against the laws of God. Others have contributed to the same delusion, by resting the necessity of conformity on lower principles, such as expediency, and obedience to the law of the land. And so, many persons have thought lightly of separation from what they deemed a mere national establishment, who would have remained faithful, had they been taught that the Church was Christ's own divine institution.

Let us hope that these things are now beginning to be better known and valued; that the necessity of the Christian sacraments,—the essential unity of the Church,—the duty of joining ourselves, through God's appointed means, to that which is the body of Christ,—the true nature of the Church, not as a mere human establishment, which may be put down by the same power that raised it up, but as a divine ordinance of Christ, which must continue so long as the world endureth,—let us trust that these vital doctrines will henceforth be acknowledged amongst Christians. And when the voice of long-neglected truth has once more gone forth through the land, let us entertain a firm hope that better days are in store for the Church.—Superstition and heresy have in times past more fearfully prevailed against the Church, than now she is vexed by schism. But as the former have, through the providence of God, been dispersed, so we doubt not