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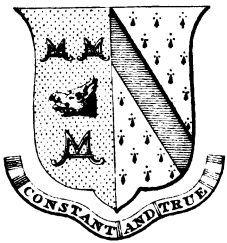

The Right Honorable
George Rose

Independency, a great Schiſm.

Independencie A Great SCHISM PROVED

Against Dr. OWEN his *APOLOGY* in his *Tract of SCHISM.*

As also an *APPENDIX* to the former Discourse, shewing the inconstancy of the *Dr.* and the inconsistency of his former and present *OPINIONS.*

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LONDON,

Printed by *J. S.* for *John Wright* at the *Kings-Head* in the *Old-Bailey*, 1657.

Independencie
A great
SCHISME.

CHAP. I.

By way of Preface.

THe Crime of *Schism*, is so *heinous* in it self (as his own, and other's *aggravations* of it hereafter, will make good) and so dangerous and *noxious* to the Church of God, (as the event in all Ages hath declared); that no *Invectives* against the *evils* of it, can wel be too great or high. No wonder then, if all men, of any persuasion, speaking of this Subject do make their *entrance* at this door: The *Ancients* (and latter *Divines*) agreeing generally in the *Notion* of *Schism*, and never changed, till now. §. 1.

for their *mistakes* therein, had indeed the the *Happinesse* to deal with men *evidently guilty* of many *Miscarriages*, as in other things, so for their *Schismatical principles*: which being taken up, and *espoused*, by some in after-ages, have justly branded them with the *crime* and character of *Schism*. I shall instance in the *Donatists* (the first in *stories*, charged with it, as I remember) whose prime *principles* (for they took up more in after times) were these two, 1. "That they "were the onely Church of Christ, in a "corner of Africa, and left no Churches "in the world, but their own. 2. That "none were truly baptized, or entered "members of the Church of Christ, but "by some Minister of their partie. The Romanists, (as soon as *Antichrist* took the throne) have impropriated and stoutly managed these very *Principles*. They first assume to themselves, the name of the *Church*, excluding all, that are not (as they speak to contradiction) of the *Romane Catholicke* belief. And then, that none are truly *Ordained Ministers*, but by their *Bishops*; and consequently none are truely baptized, or *members*, but those admitted by men, so ordained. These very *principles* are again

improved

improved by men of other *persuasions*, (whom I yet name not); and whether our *Reverend Author*, will acknowledg them to be *Schismatical* principles, or no, I do not know; But this I know, that all protestant reformed Churches at home and abroad (besides those of his *constitution*) do hold them so to be. And thereupon (if he desired not to be singular) he might give up the *nature* of this evil of *Schism*, to the determination and *judgement* of *Ancient* and *Moderne Divines*; agreeing (as he does) in the *aggravations* of its sinfulnesse.

§. 2. That some of the *Antients* (as *Hierom* confesses of himself) did perhaps *load their Adversaries*, with *charges* they were not guilty of, (or the *Controversie* would allow) must be yeelded as a *fault*. The ground whereof, was partly this, That they *saw further* into the ill *Consequences* of those opinions, than their *Adversaries* did foresee; and partly a corruption, which insinuates it self, into the best men, in the heat of their *Zeal* against errours, *viz.* "to strive for victory, rather than *Truth*. And though *they* might so *miscarry* the notion of *Schism*, yet that all *Divines*, *Pious* & *Learned*, in all ages, should so much mistake the *Nature* of it, is most im-

improbable; as, that none, but himself, should *discover* that *mistake*, is not very reasonable to imagine.

§. 3. How ever the *Age* wherein we live, "hath in good measure, freed it "self from the bondage of Subjection "to the Dictates of men, because they "they lived before us: yet this course of *procedure*, hath not lost its *usefulnesse*, or is becom impertinent. The *concurring judgement* of all men, of all *persuasions*, in all Ages, carries weight of reason with it: especially when it agrees with, either *expresse Scripture*, or regular and *rationall deduction*, from it (to which he here professes to *stand* or *fall*) it is cheerfully to be received. That which may cause him *to lye low*, as to any expectation of *successe*, is not onely the *præjudice* of many ages the *interest* of most Christians, and *mutuall Consent* of parties at variance (taken commonly for unquestionable *evidence* of truth) but his own prejudicate *notion* of *Schism*, limiting it as he does, "to a difference or division in a parti-"cular *Assembly parly*, which if it be not *cleerly* and sufficiently made out, will blast his hopes of any good *issue*, by this *Discourse*, as himself professeth hereafter.

pag. 30.

But

But he is not *Solicitous* of the event, endeavouring (as he sayes) to go, "whi-
"ther he should, not whither most
"men go.

§. 4. What *advatage* in this businesse, the first *chargers* of Schism upon others, have gotten, is not very visible. "He that is first in his own cause, *Pro.* 18.
"is righteous, but his (innocent) neigh- 17.
"bour comes and tryes him. Those that are most guilty of it, may first *clamour* against the innocent, but at last will be proved most *Schismaticall*. But when men cannot reasonably *charge* others with that *crime*, as having never *separated* from their *Churches*, (of which they never were, as he speaks hereafter) the *suspicion* at least, will lye at their own door, who have *Separated* from all Churches (of some whereof they once were) and they must either prove them all *Heretical* or *corrupt*, or themselves to be *Schismaticall*, in separating from them. The *Romanists* indeed have made great use of this *Advantage*, to *accuse first*, to hide their own greater *Schism*. But the *Donatists* of old (and those that succeed them now in their *principles*) had no colour to charge *Schism* upon all true Churches; for that must lye upon

them, that made so *causeleſſe* a Separation; not upon the *Churches*, which never were of their *Association*. But the chief Advantage of *Rome*, lay in this; that having once bin a *Famous Church*, in the *Apoſtles* times, they plead the *priviledges* of that Church, to cover their *Apoſtacy*. "For (to uſe the words of our Au-"thor) if any partie of men can eſtate "themſelves atlarge in all the priviledg-"es granted, and promiſes made to the "Church, in generall, they need not be "ſolicitous about dealing with them "that oppoſe them, having at once ren-"dered them no better than Jewes, and "Mahumetans, Heathens or Publicans, "by appropriating thoſe priviledges "unto themſelves. Which practice, whether it be not *imitated* by himſelf and partie; let him conſider what ever is ſpoken in Scripture of the *Catholicke Church*, viſible or inviſible, they have too often applied to their own *particular Churches*: and count all without, that are not *within* the pale of their *Societies*, as is elſe where ſhewed. And I ſhall adde ſtill his own words; "Whereas the par-"ties litigant, by all rules of law and "equity, ought to ſtand under an e-"quall regard, untill the ſeveralls of

"their

"their differences have been heard and "stated; one part, is hereby utterly "condemned before it is heard: and it "is all one unto them, whether they "are in the right or wrong. How *applicable* all this is to *themselves*, will appear ere we have done.

§. 5. In the mean time, (I still follow him) it cannot be denied, "but "that their vigorous adhering to the "former Advantage, (a thing to be ex-"pected from men, wise in their gene-"ration) hath exposed some of them to "a contrary evill; whilst, in a conceit "of their own innocencie, (as being "the only true Churches of Christ) they "have insensibly slipt (as is the man-"ner of men) into sleight, & contemp-"tible thoughts of Schism (wherof they "are accused) as esteeming it no great matter to separate from any, or all true Churches; making it no Schism, no crime at all: as will appear hereafter. The *safest way* for them, is to deny this *Separation* to be a *Schism*: for otherwise, he asserts well; "To live in Schism is to "live in sinne; which unrepented of, "will ruine a mans eternall condition. Upon this therefore depends the *issue* of this whole cause; For if a *causelesse Se-*

See *p.*46

paration from a *true Church*, be proved a *Schism*, (as, I doubt not, it will) I shall adde his own words: "Every man "charged with it, must either desert his "station, which gives foundation to his "charge, or acquit himself of the crime, "in that station. And this *latter* (for he likes not to leave his *Station*) is that, which *in reference to himself and others, he does propose*, and mannages with much confidence; Upon this we put the whole issue of this present cause.

§. 6. For let not them think that the *Iniquitie* of their *Accusers* (as to other *corruptions*) doth in the least, extenuate their crime; "*Schism is Schism still*. Though our Churches, from whom they Separate, be not so pure as they ought or would be. Yea though we were worse than we are (as bad as the *Church* of *Corinth*) yet ought not they to separate from us, as no *Churches* of *Christ* (being desirous of *Reformation*) but are *Schismaticks*, if they do. They ought rather to have stayed, and helped to *reforme* us; which they make almost *impossible* by their uncharitable *Separation* from us. This that followes, were worth their most serious consideration: "A "conscientious tendernesse, and fear of "being

"being mistaken, will drive this busi-"nesse, to another Issue, whereas their *Confidence* in carriage of their way, is a *stop* to their, and our *Reformation.*

§. 7. 8. 9. The *state* of things, in this time, is too well known in the world, to the great *scandall* of *Christianity*; "And wo is to them, by whom the offence cometh. 1. *Protestants* are charged by *Papists*, as *Schismaticks*, for departing (as they say) from the *Catholike Church*, which Church they are. 2. *Calvinists* by *Lutherans*, for no *crime* in the world but this (sayes our Author) but because we *submit* not to all they teach: which he counts unreasonable, upon this ground: "That in no "instituted Church-relation, would "they ever admit us to stand with "them? Which is as considerable an in-"stance of the power of prejudice, as "this Age can give; unlesse it may be *paraleld* in his *own Church*: It is as well a *Schisme*, to keep *fit members*, out of *Church-Relations*, and priviledges, as to *separate* from a true Church. 3. *Presbyterians* are charged with the same *crime*, by *Episcopall* men, because they *reject* that way of *Government*, and somwhat of the externall *way of Worship.*

4. The

4. The *Independents* are accused, by *Presbyterians*, of the same fault, for making *differences* in, and then *separating* from their Churches, as no *true Churches*, and setting up *others* of their own. The learned Doctor supposes this last charge, "is in a short time, almost sunke "of it self; and so will ask the lesse "paines, utterly to remove and take "off. But he is an *happy man*, if things out of *sight*, were presently out of minde. His party hath rather *sunke* the charge, by their *silence* in not answering, than *dispersed* or removed it. And he will finde, that it *swims* on the face of those *Discourses*, written against their *way*; if he pleased to take notice of them. And this charge (revived by his *Importunity*) he will finde, will aske more paines to take off, than he is aware of: much *more* than we shall need to take, to remove the same *charge* from our selves, put upon us, by the other three sorts of men; *Papists*, *Lutherans*, and *Episcopall*. Had it not been done often and sufficiently, by men of our *own judgement*, himself hath removed it from us, in *removing* it from himselfe, in this discourse. But how he will *remove* ours, comes shortly to be considered.

§. 10 What

§. 10. What those *general principles*, of *irrefragable evidence* are, whereby he will *acquit* us all, and himself also from the *severall concernments*, in this *charge*, we shall readily attend unto. But how "the whole guilt of this crime, "shall be thrust into one Ephah, "and by whom carried to build it an "house, in the Land of Shinar, to esta-"blish it upon its own *Base* (as he *phrasifies* it) I do not well understand. Onely I suppose, he will *discharge* the charge, by a new *definition* of *Schism* (and some other like *distinctions*:) which if it be true, will carry it almost *quite* out of the world, & blesse the *Churches* with everlasting peace. All *Schism*, shall be *confined* to a *particular church*: of which hereafter.

§. 11. But that he should professe his *much rathernesse*, to spend all his time, in *making up*, and *healing* the breaches and *Schisms* among Christians, than one *houre* in justifiying our divisions, &c. seemeth strange to me, when as his whole book, or greatest part, is (as a *learned Doctour* said) one great *Schism*, and in the *Designe* of it, nothing but a *justification* of himself, and partie, in their *Divisions*, with us, and *Separation* from

P. 8.

from us; and tells us, the cause is so *irreconcilable*, that none but the *Lamb*, is worthy or able to *close* the differences made: Who when he will come, *and put forth the greatnesse of his power*, is very uncertain; and he puts us out of hope, that before that, it shall be accomplished. And yet sayes; "In the "mean time, a Reconciliation amongst "all Protestants, is our dutie, and practi-"cable; and had perhaps, ere this, been "in some forwardnesse, had men rightly "understood, wherein such a reconcili-"ation, according to the mind of God "doth consist. Which, I hope, he will, ere we part, give us to understand. He seems to place it much, in a *principle of forbearance*; that is, in *Toleration* of one another, in any way of *Religion*; the *cursed fruits* whereof we reap (with *lamentation*) at this day. They have indeed strongly improved that *principle* of *forbearance*, to perswade us to *beare* with them; but how little of it, they have shewed to us, the world is Judge.

§. 12. The two *generall wayes* fixed on by some, for compassing of *peace*, and *union* among Christians, deserve some consideration, and to be searched to the bottom.

bottom: The one is, *inforcing uniformity* by a *secular* power: the other is *Toleration*, of all, or most *waies* of Religion; (except such as concerne the *Civill interest*). He speaks first of them both together; as if, there were no hope of union, peace, love to be expected from either, "though "men of a good zeal, and small experi-"ence, or any other account, may pro-"mise themselves much thereof. It is "something else, that must give peace, "than what is the product of the pru-"dentiall considerations of men. As for *Toleration*, it is indeed a *prudentiall* way of those *Erastian Polititians*, he speaks of below, "that would have the world "in quietness on any terms *Sect.* 15. "let what wil become of Religion, *Sect.* "17. yet indeed is *folly* and no *prudentiall* way: When men have tryed all *wayes*, to settle their *interests*; *pietie*, in cleaving to the *way* of God, is the best *policie*; as the events of both, (to which he oft appeals) have manifested: And, on the otherside, The Common-wealth of *Israel*, never prospered better, than when it *enforced uniformitie*, in the way of *Religion* prescribed. But this *uniformitie* compelled, is a *product* of *Divine prudence*, in the first and second Commandements.

dements. And if *Christ* hath instituted any *way* of *Religion* and *worship*, in the New Testament, that alone must be *enforced* on all the members of the Church.

§. 13. Yet concerning that *Uniformity* enforced, he sayes, "It is the readiest "meanes in the world, to root out all "Religion from the hearts of men, which if it were true, were a *potent Argument* for *Toleration*; which yet hee seemes not to like. But 1. This was, by *God*, thought the best way to *plant* and preserve *Religion*, in the hearts of the Jewes. Those great *Reformers* so famous among them, *Josiah*, *&c*: are commended for *compelling* of people, and *binding* them by oath, to serve the Lord. 2. The *parable* of *compelling* men to come in to the *Wedding*, seems (in the Judgement of no mean *Divines*) to allow a power, to bring men to the *publick Ordinances* of *worship*. 3. *Toleration* (which is our *present condition*, *Sect.* 12,) hath done much more towards the *rooting of Religion*, out of the hearts of many men, in 7. yeares, than the enforcing of *uniformity* did in 70 yeares. 4. To *compell uniformitie*, (in a true, or false way) may, by the *corruptions* of mens

hearts,

hearts, breed *Hypocrisie*, *Formality*, *Atheism*, and *Anxietie* of conscience in some: But good and gracious *souls*, have been discovered, and *purified* by it, as the three *Children*, and *Martyrs* have manifested? 5. Many, at least some, that were enforced to *conformitie* in the worship of God, in *families*, or congregations, have *blessed* God for that *compulsion*; who before were *Atheists* or *profane*; while they had a *cursed*, *intolerable toleration*, to be of any or no *Religion*. Lastly, the will indeed cannot be forced to beleive; but that *professed Christians* should be *compelled* to the *externall profession* of that *only way* of worship, which Christ hath instituted seems as *equal* & reasonable, as it is *unreasonable*, that men be left to their own choice, to *worship* God, either not at all, or after their own fancies. And he that denyes this, seems to mee, to bee, if not *an Atheist*, a *Skeptick* in Religion.

Fieri nec potest, nec solet, ut Deum sincerè colat qui diversas simul Religiones foverè desiderat: certissimum est, neutram credere qui contrarias admittit, Gregor Tholos.

I expected now, that he, (having said so much against *enforcing* of *uniformitie*) should have said as much, or something, against *Toleration*; which he calls also a *prudentiall way*, for Reconciliation. Does he thinke *this* (if not the other) is the readie way to *plant* Religion in §. 14.

mens

mens hearts? Let experience spe[illegible]ted If since the men of *his way* have gott[illegible] *Toleration* for themselves, they have [illegible]he opened a *doore* for all *errours*, *heresies*, a[illegible] horrid *blasphemies*, or profanesse. But both these principles bee by him decryed (as hee seemes to insinuate; "because "he finds, that events & executions fol-"low not the consciences embracing "of one or other of these decryed *Prin-"ciples*, he should have done good ser-vice, if he had shewed us another way, to this *due* and *practicable Reconciliation* which he hath not done; but only tells us, "he is perswaded that a gene-"rall alteration of the state of the "Churches of Christ in this world, must "determine this controversie. The discovery of that way, might perhaps have freed us, from "the vanitie of "those reasonings, wherewith we are in-"tangled. But I am to seeke what hee meanes, when he sayes, "he hath some-"while since ceased to be moved by the "clamours of men, concerning bloody "persecution on the one hand, and curs-"ed intolerable toleration on the o-"ther. As if he tooke them to be idle *clamours* of men that cry down *enforcing uniformitie*, as bloody persecution

on

heare in the one hand or *toleration* on the other hand, as *cursed* and *intolerable*. What, or which of them will please him? or are both of them *usefull*, according to the various *interests* of Nations? And I would know, why he calls, *enforcing uniformitie*, by the name of *bloody persecution*. Surely to force *conformitie*, to the *way* of God, is no *Persecution*, much lesse *bloody*: but is only a *just prosecution* of evill and refractory *Rebells* to the Kingdome of Christ; unlesse *Magistrates* may be called *bloody persecutors*, in *prosecuting* malefactors unto death. And againe, if *prosecution* of such offenders, as conforme not to the way of God, bee just and necessary, then *Toleration* of such, in other wayes, is and ought to be accounted *intolerable*, and will be *cursed*. Certaine it is, that the *embracing* of, either *bloody persecution* (which is against the *truth*) or *toleration* of all *Religions* (as well as the truth) have had *providentiall events*, suitable thereunto, as men have placed, their *civill interests* in them; both have met with *untimely* ends, and fearfull destruction. §. 15.

He that shall indeed consider, the *proposalls* and attempts made for *Ecclesi-*

astical peace, in this *little world* of ours, of later times (not to look back to former) either by *Erastian politicians*, on the one side, or *Jesuitical Tolerationists*, on the other, "will quickly assume, the libertie of affirming, concerning them all, that as wise men "might easily see flawes in all of them, "and an unsuitablenesse to the end proposed; and as good men might see so "much of carnall interest, self e, and hypocrisie in them, as might discourage them from any great expectation: "so upon many other accounts, a better "issue was not to be looked for from "them, than hath beene actually obtained, which hath for the most part "been this, that those that could dissemble most deeply, have beene "thought to have (and have had) "the greatest advantage; and those "that have come with the least candor, "most fraud, hypocrisie, secular baits for "the subverting of others, have in appearance, for a season, seemed to obtaine successe; And in this spirit of "craft and contention, are things yet "carryed on in the world. This *witnesse is true*, therefore *rebuke* them sharply.

It is true also, that the *parties* at *variance* now, (*Independents*, and *Presbyterians*) "are so well acquainted at length, "with each others principles, Arguments, Interests, Prejudices, and reall "distance of their causes, that none of "them expect any Reconciliation, but "meerly by one parties keeping its station, and the other coming over wholly unto them. The one partie are got *so high*, that they will not come down to the other; the other are so *strongly convinced* of the errour of their *Independent way*, that they may not, cannot come up to them: In what a *sad condition* is poor *England* the while; like to be *torne in pieces*, by her own Children. §. 16.

I shall adde something of the next Section, "whereupon having a mutu- §. 17.
"all diffidence in each other, they grow "weary of all endeavours to be carryed "on joyntly in this kind: And this is "like to be the state of things, untill a- "nother Spirit be powred out on the "professours of Christianitie, than that "wherewith at present, they seeme "mostly to be acted. Now the *God of grace*, *and peace*, powre out that other *good Spirit* upon this *Church* and Nation, before they be utterly destroyed.

§. 18. But is there no *Balme* in *Gilead*? no hopefull way of Reconciliation? Yes, he tells us. "The only way remaining to be fixed on, whilst our divisions continue, is to enquire where-in the guilt of them doth consist, and who is justly charged therewith: in speciall, what is, and who is guiltie of the sinne of *Schism*. And this will we also do if God permit.

§. 19. Much hath been written, upon this *subject* of *Schisme*, by very learned men; who rather (as he sayes) endeavoured, "to convince their Adversaries (the Romanists) of the insufficiencie of their charge of the Church of England to be Schismaticks, in separating from them; than rightly and cleerly to state the thing or matter contended about: which latter seems to me very *strange*; For how could they *remove* the *charge* of *Schism*, and not sufficiently declare what *Schism* is? wherein they and their *Adversaries* agreed: But our *Reverend Doctor*, had a double *designe* in this undertaking: 1. To shew us a *new way* of his own, to dispell that *charge*, by giving us a new *Definition* of *Schism*, not known, or made use of in former times. 2. Thereby to remove the *charge* of

Schism, from himself and his *partie*; for so he sayes here, and hereafter: "The "present concernment of some fearing "God, lying beyond, what other men "have undertaken, something may be "farther added, as to the satisfaction of "the consciences of men unjustly accu-"sed of this crime; which is my aime. What *satisfaction* he can give us and the world in this *undertaking*, we shall, by his good leave, take notice of. Only premising this, that I intend not to deale with whole *Chapter* and *Section*, as hitherto I have done; consenting with him in his *Removall* of that part of the charge of *Schism*, which is common to him with us; and onely observe, how he will free himselfe, from that part of it, which *concerns* himself and his partie.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of the Nature of Schism in Scripture.

§. 1. THis *reverend and learned Authour* (as appeares from his, pag. 16. Sect. 16. of the first Chapter) undertakes to answer a *Popish* charge of *Schism*, upon the *Church* of England, directed to both the *Universities*. And in his *vindication* of our Church, (as was expected) carries on the debate so farre, as not only to *vindicate* himselfe and his partie from the like charge, by some at *home*, but also (as many wise men think) to *unchurch* his *mother* the *Church of England*; and to find or leave no *Churches* here, but his own as the *Donatists* of old did. That this is the *result* of his discourse (if not the *designe*) will appeare, before we have done. But we shall attend at present, to the method of his proceeding; who thus begins. "The thing whereof we
P. 21. "treat being a disorder, in the instituted "worship of God, I suppose it a modest "request to desire, that we may abide "solely to that discoverie and descripti-"on, which is made of it in Scripture;

that

"that that alone shall be esteemed "Schism; which is there so called, or "hath the entire nature of that, which is "there so called. It is (they say) an ill *signe* or *omen*, to *stumble* at the threshold, in going out. The first part of these words, is very *ambignous*, and may have a double sense, either that Schism is to be found, in *matter* of instituted worship only, or only in the *differences* made, in the *time* of celebrating *instituted worship*; and neither of these is true, or yet proved, and so a meer *begging* of the *question*: Yet both of these; are asserted by him hereafter; the first, Sect. 23. the latter, Sect. 9. of which, more when we come at them. In the meane time we assert the contrary. "That as there "may be Schism in the Church about "other matters, besides instituted wor-"ship; so there may also be Schism, "in other places and times, than those "of celebrating worship. For the second part of the words, which is a *Request*, it shall by me be readily granted. "That we abide solely to that discovery, "and description, which is made of it in "scripture; that, that alone be esteemed "Schism, which is there so called, or "which hath the entire nature of that,

"which is there so called. That is, that only shall be esteemed *Schism*, which is either *expresly* in Scripture so called, or in æquivalent words, or may be deduced thence, by *regular*, and *rational consequence*, as he said above, chap. 1. §. 3,

§. 2.

p. 23. What the Scripture-*use* and *notion* of the word is, is then first to be enquired: It is taken there, either in the prime and *proper* sense, with respect to *bodyes naturall*, for a *seperation* into parts, or (as he expresses it, p. 24.) "an interruption "of continuitie, by an external power, "a division of parts before-*continued*: the places are cited by himselfe, *Math.* 9. 16. *Math.* 27. 51. "the vaile of the Tem-"ple was rent, from the top to the bottome into 2 *parts*. Or in the *metaphoricall* sense, from *bodyes naturall*, to bodyes *civill*, or *ecclesiasticall*; In a civill body, *Joh.* 7. 43. "There was a Schisme or "division among the *people*. So *Act.* 14. "4. the multitude of the cittie was di-"vided; that was not only in their *opinions* and *judgments*, but also into *parts* or parties, for so its added; καὶ οἱ μὲν σὺν, "and some were with the Jewes, and "some with the *Apostles*. So *Act* 23. 7. the multitude was divided, some *following*

ving one, some another of their *leaders*, in that dissension; which is the *reverend Doctors* own glosse. Thus also it is expressed, in his *Testimonie* in the margine "The Inhabitants of *Rome*, were parted "into two parts, and no more agreed, "among themselves, and there was a "great *Schism*. They were divided, not only in their *judgments*, but in their societies also, into *two parties*. This then being the *notion* and nature of it in the *naturall* and *politi*[illegible] sense, it might easily *slip*, into the like, in its *Ecclesiasticall* use; to signifie, not only a *difference in Judgment*, but a *separation* into *parties* also. As the *Assembly* may be *Civill* or *Ecclesiasticall*; so there may be a twofold *Schism* in each, (differing only *gradually*) either a *division* in *opinion* onely, or into *Parties* also, one part separating from another. And that the rather, because the latter is the *ordinary issue* or consequence of the former. See *Act.* 19. 9. There was but one assembly at the first, in the *Synagogue*. "But "when divers spake evill of that way ἀφώριστο "before the multitude, *Paul* departed, "and separated the *Disciples*, &c.

p. 24.

§. 3.

It is true, that in the *Ecclesiasticall* sense, the word is not to be *found* used, but

p. 25.

but in 1 *Cor.* 1. 10. & 11. 18. & 9: only in the case of *differences* amongst the *Corinthians*: "I heare, that there are "σχίσματα among you; which what they were, will presently come to be considered, when we have heard, what he accounts in generall, the *constant use* of the word; "To denote differences of "mind and judgment, with troubles
p. 25. "ensuing thereon, amongst men met in some one Assembly, about the "the compassing of a common end and "designe. But that this is a *forestalling* of the *Readers judgment*, by a meer *begging* of *the question*, hath in part been proved, even from the *Scripture* it selfe, where it is used for *separation* into parties, upon those *differences* of mind and judgment, in the *politicall* use of the word; and why it may not be so used, in the *Ecclesiasticall* sense, I see yet no reason; especially when the *proper* use of it, is, to signifie a *breach* of *union*, or a *separation* of a naturall body, into severall parts, two or more. And I have cause to *suspect*, that he *sticks* so hard upon this *notion*, not so much to *confute* that charge of *Schisme* upon us, by the *Romanists*, as to *ward* off the same *charge*, upon *himselfe* and his *parties*; as we shall shew hereafter: But, granting him this

motion of *Schisme*, for a while; this is the way, as on the one hand, to free all *Church separation*, from *Schisme*, with respect to one another; so on the other to make all *particular Churches*, more or lesse *Schismatical*. For what one *Congregation* almost is there in the world, where there are not *differences* of judgments, whence ensue many *troubles*, about the *compassing* of one common end and designe. I doubt whether his *any* be free therefrom. Yet he askes confidently below, p. 63. "Have we any "differences and contentions in our Assemblies? Doe we not worship God, "without disputes and divisions? Its happie with them, if it be so: For let most of the *Assemblyes* of severall *sorts* and *sects* be visited, and it will be *visible* enough, that in their *prophecyings*, (as they call them) there are *differences* of mind enow, and *troubles* more than a good many, with *wranglings* and *janglings*, and sometimes *railing* and *revilings* good store, that a man might (upon this one *principle* of his, besides other) venture to call them *Schismatical Conventicles*, rather then *Churches* of Christ. And why not, as well as *Paul* charges that *famous Church* of *Corinth*, with the crime of *Schism*, for the same or like dis-

p. 27. disorders? "They had (sayes our Au-
"thour) differences amongst themselves,
"about unnecessary things: on these
"they engaged into disputes and sidings
"even in their solemne Assemblyes,
"probably much vain jangling, alie na-
"tion of affections, exasperation of spi-
"rits, with a neglect of due offices of
"love, *&c.* This was their *Schism*,
"*&c.* That the *Apostle* charges this
upon them, is *true*; but was this all?
were there not *divisions* into parties, as
well as in *judgement*? we shall consider
that ere long. For the present, I say,
Separation may proceed from Schism. *difference* in judgment; was the ready
way to *differenee* in, and *alienation* of, af-
fections; and that to exasperation of
Spirits, and that to neglect of due offices
of love, *&c*: and at last ere long, to
p. 194. *Separation* of *Societies.* And he sayes
well. "The Apostle would have them
p. 28. "joyned together, not only in the
"same Church-order, and fellowship,
"but also in onenesse of mind and
"judgment, which if they were not,
"Schisms would be amongst *them*, and
upon those, *separation*, into severall *as-
semblyes*; as we see at this day, to a *la-
mentation.* *Difference* in some one point,
of *doctrine*, *worship*, or *discipline*, hath
broken

broken the Church into many *fractions*, almost as many as men; But I shall observe his *observations* upon these *Divisions* amongst the *Corinthians*.

1. Observe (sayes hee) "That the "thing mentioned, is entirely in one "Church: no mention of one Church "divided against another, or separated "from another, or others: the crime "lyes wholy within one Church, that "met together, for the worship of "God, &c: This, it seemes, is a matter of *great concernment*, to be granted or denyed. In so much; that he professes, "That unlesse men will condescend so "to state it, upon the evidence tender-"ed, he shall not hope to prevaile much, "in the processe of this discourse. This then being the foundation of that great *Fabrick* of *Schism*, as he calls it, it had need bee *bottomed* better, than upon his own bare *Affirmation*, (which is all, we yet have for it) without any proofe. For this end, I shall take his first *observation*, into particular consideration. 1. That the *divisions* mentioned, were in *one Church* is *ambiguously* spoken; for it may be taken either for the *collection* of severall *Assemblyes* in *Corinth* (where there were multitudes of Christians) which

§. 4. p. 29. p. 30.

which are sometimes called the *Church*, yea a *particular Church*, with respect to the *Catholick* or other *National* Churches So himselfe speaks of those "Patriarchs "(so called) how many or how few soe-
p. 121. "ver they were, they were particular "Churches. Or else, that the *Saints* at *Corinth*, were, at this time, but one *particular congregation*, meeting all, in one place. In this latter sense, its evident, the *Reverend Doctor* takes it; but in so doing he *beggs* the question, and contents not with himselfe. For he had said before, "they had disputings "and sidings, in their solemne Assem-
p. 27. "blyes, not one, but many *Assemblyes*. And the *Divines* of the *Assembly*, have made it more than probable, that the multitude of *Christians* of *Corinth*, were too many to meet in one place, and yet may be said to *meet together* ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ, not *jointly*, but severally in their particular places of meeting. As the Congregations of *London*, may be said to meet together on the *Lords Day*, not *conjunctim*, but *divisim*; 2. That, it was amongst the *members* of one particular Church, is *gratis dictum*; For that all the *Christians* in *Corinth*, and about it, were called one *Church* collectively, is evide,

vident, *chap.* 1. *v.* 2. "To the Church "of God, at *Corinth.* And that there were more *particular Churches* there, or thereabouts than one; is also evident, both by *Rom.* 16. 7. *The Church at Cenchrea*, a particular Church distinct from that at *Corinth*, and also by, 1 *Cor.* 14. 34. "Let "your women keep silence in the "Churches; one and yet many *Churches* at *Corinth.* 3. This is also presumed, but not proved, "That the crime of "Schism was charged on them, onely, "within the verge of one Church; as if all their *Divisions* were *confined* to the Church; whereas there were *Schisms* and *differences*, abroad and out of the Church; which I shall evince, first from the *Scripture* it selfe. The differences or *Schisms* were of severall kinds; Some *out* of the *Assembly*, *chap.* 1. & chap. 3. *sidings about their Teachers*, as he speaks *p.* 27. one said, *I am of Paul*, &c: these were, its likely, abroad as they met, one with another; Some were in the *Assembly*, as those he charges them with *chap.* 11. 18. "When you come toge-"ther in the Church, I heare that there "are divisions among you. But the Doctor carryes it so, as if all their *differences* were in the Church meeting, when

when they met to *worship* God; for reasons hereafter to be given; The *Apostle* seemes to charge them thus; "I hear "there are Schisms among you, not "only, in private conferences, *chap.* 1. "but also, which is worse, in your "solemne *Assemblyes*, *chap.* 11. when "you meet to worship *God*. And this is the Doctors own Glosse, (unawares *confessed*) "not content to make this "difference, the matter of their debates "and disputes, from house to house, "(but) even when they met for publick "worship, or that which they all met "in, and for, they were divided on that "account (also) *chap.* 11. This was their *Schism*, but not the only, though the *worser*, Schism; which he *confounds* too much, to lead us away in a *mist*.

p. 27.

4. That there was no one *Church* divided against another, or separated from another, is assumed, but not proved, unlesse by a *Negative*, which is invalid; "There is no mention of such a separati-"on, therefore there was none: of "which in the next.

2. "Here is no mention of any par-"ticular man, or number of men's sepa-"ration from the Assemblyes of the "whole Church, or of subduction of "them-

§. 5.

p. 30.

" themselves, from its power, &c: only
"they had groundlesse, causelesse diffe-
" rences amongst themselves.

But was this all? were there not *separations* made, if not from that *Church* yet in that *Church*, as well as *divisions*? Let the Scripture determine this. 1. The *Apostle*, *cap.* 1: charges them with *stridings about their Teachers*, *v.* 11. " It
" hath beene declared to mee, that there
"are Schisms among you: One saith
" *I am of Paul*, and I of *Apollo*, &c: And
again, *chap.* 3. *v.* 3. " Whereas there is
" among you, envying, and strife, and
" divisions are ye not carnall, and walke διχοστασιαι
" as men? For while one saith, I am of
" *Paul*, and another, I am of *Apollo*, are
" ye not carnall? That is, I am a *disciple* of *Paul*, said one, and I of *Apollo* said another: In our *language*, I am a *member* of such a *Ministers* Congregation, sayes one; such a *man* for my mony: and I am of such a *mans* Congregation, said another; and so a third: And hereupon, they (most probably) *separated* themselves, into such and *such Congregations*; with *slighting* and contempt of other *Ministers*, with *respect* to their own. And is not *Separation* the ordinary issue of such *envying*, *strife*, and con-

tentions? Let experience, this day, speake. As *Love* is the Mother of Union; so *Envy* and strife, of *Separation*.

2. That there was a separation of parties in the Church of *Corinth*, at least as to one Ordinance, appeares, *cap.* 11. that of the Lords Supper (as some do now) *v.* 18. with 21. 22. 33. They would, such a companie (the richer sort perhaps) meet and receive the Supper together; and separating themselves, not tarry to take the poore with them. This was part of their Schism, which the Apostle charges them with, and warnes them of; They were not yet gone so farre in Schism, as to separate from the Church, by gathering of Churches, in opposition to it; but they were next door to it, they made separations in the Church, first in their differences of judgment, and then into parties, as to some Ordinances; Not long after, they separated into other Churches, slighting and undervaluing the first Ministers or Churches, as nothing, or lesse pure than their own; which wee see practised sufficiently at this day. 3. But suppose it granted, there was but one single congregation at *Corinth*, yet the Apostle dehorting the Bre-

See, Jeams 2. 1, 2. *&c.*

Brethren, *v.* 10. from Schisme, and writing to more than the Church of *Corinth*, *v.* 2. even "all that call upon the "name of the Lord Jesus, in every "place.

3. "Here is no mention of any sub- §. 6.
"straction of obedience from Bishops, Rulers, the Pope, *&c*: Nor does the A- p. 31.
"postle charge them as Schismaticks "from the nationall Church of *Achaia*, &c: For the first part, it is no wonder; for such kind of *Creatures* were not yet hatched, till many, or some generations after. And for the other, the *Church*, was yet but small in *Achaia*, (some *See him* *scattered saints* there might be, but few p. 37. f Churches) and therefore they are charged only for their *Divisions*, and separations in, or from the Church of *Corinth*, according to the severall *Ministers*, which they set up, as is most probable. As in the like case, by him instanced in p. 32. the time of *clement*. "Some few unquiet "persons at *Corinth*, drew the whole So- "cietie, into division, and an opposition "to their *Elders*, a few men acted by pride "and madness; yet such power had those "persons in the Congregation, that they "prevailed to depose the Elders, and "cast them out of Office. Is it not *rea-*

sonable to thinke, they set up *new Elders* and new Congregations? and most *unreasonable* to thinke, that the whole *Church*, ranne into this *madnesse*? and so some *Congregations* remaining sound, the rest made *Separations* from them: and this, *Clement* calls their *Schism*. And besides his severall words, to describe it, στάσις, ἔρις, &c: his word μεταγάγεσε, which signifies *to lead away* a partie, καλῶς πολιτευομένους, &c, "those that walk "well, from their honoured Service (though the *Doctor* waves to know what it meant,) and *misconstrues* it, I say, the word μεταγάγεσε implyes a *separation* into other *Assemblyes*: as the manner of seducers is, "speaking per-"verse things, to draw away, (ἀποσπᾶν,) "Disciples after them, *Act.* 20. 30. The like may be conceived, though not so *cleerly* expressed, in this first *Schism* at *Corinth*, the same Church, and place: Surely those *differences* noted by *Clement* in the same Church, were not *divisions* in the *Church*, met together to *worship* God; but out of the Church, and causing *separations* from the Elders, and so from the Church, breaking of it into *fractions*; which yet he calls their *Schism*.

As for his notion of παροικία, in *Clement*

ment, to signifie then, not a province *p.* 34. (as some,) but a citie Church, consisting of many Congregations, the Church παροικοῦσα Ῥώμην, Κόρινθον, &c I am apt to *believe* his conjecture to be true. The Church *inhabiting Rome*, or the Church at *Rome*, (which at that time, had no such large *Territories* as a Church *provinciall*, or *Metropolitane*, as some rather *dream*, than prove) as its said of the *Church* in or at *Jerusalem*, *Act.* 8. 1. and the Church of God, τῇ οὔσῃ ἐν Κορίνθῳ, at *Corinth*. But yet I cannot agree with him, that either *Rome* or *Corinth*, were in *Clements* time, onely one *Parish*, (as he now uses the word) or one *Congregation*, meeting all in one place. For as I believe this *Epistle* of *Paul* to the *Corinthians*, was intended to be written to the *Church* of *Cenchrea* (which whether it were a *stated distinct Church* or no the *Doctor* knowes not *p.* 39. nor was perswaded it was compleated *p.* 38. but yet supposes, it *comes under the* same name with *Corinth*, ibid. though *Paul* mentions it, as a *distinct* Church, *Rom.* 16. 1. and *Phaba* to be a *Deaconesse*; or Servant of that *Church*) to the *Church*, I say, at *Cenchrea*: So I see no reason, but there might be & were several *Churches*,

or Assemblies in *Corinth*, each distinct from other; though not such *Parishes*, as ours are, in *London*, &c: the greater part, being yet *Heathens*, and the *Magistrates* not yet *Christian*, to erect, or allow them *Churches*, as now we call them; or to *distribute* them into particular *Parishes*; which was done, as soon, as most or all became *Christians*. However; the Doctor acknowledges
p. 35. "the word *Parochia* may be so called, "from them who met together to break "bread, and to eate, from παροχ& con- "*vivator*. Whence it will follow, that if the *multitude* be so great, that they cannot *meet* in one place, to *heare the word*, or to *break bread* (as its evident the 3000, or 5000 at *Jerusalem*, could not) then look how many *meeting places* there were for this purpose, so many *Parishes*, or Congregations there were, at *Jerusalem* or *Corinth*, having severall, if not *fixed Elders* over them, and yet the *whole* but one *Church*.

§. 7.
p. 42. But if he grant, that this *evill* mentioned by the *Apostle*, is *Schism*, does it conclude that nothing else is *Schism*? He answers, "he is inclinable so to do, "and resolved, that unlesse any man

can

"can prove, that something else is termed "Schism by some Divine writer, &c. he "will be at Libertie from admitting it so "to be. Surely this is no safe Rule to go by: For as there are some *vertues*, which are not termed so, expressly in Scripture; So there may be degrees of *Schisme*, which are not so expressly called there. It is sufficient, if the one have the *nature* of such a virtue, the other of such a *crime*, though not so called. There are other words used, to signifie the same thing. As *Rom.* 16. 17. διχοστασία, of στάσις and διχο, as signifying *a division into two parts*, or parties; And what thinks he of the word αἵρεσις, which comes from a root, that signifies sometimes *trahere* to *draw*, and sometimes *sectari* to *follow*; as *Sect-masters* use to *draw away Disciples after them*; and those that follow them are called *Secta*, *à sequendo*. The *opinions* of the *Philosophers*, of severall Sects, were called αἱρέσεις, *heresies*; and their followers, Sects, divided not onely in *opinion*, but in parties and Schools also. So *Paul* uses the word, *Act.* 26. 5. "according to the most "strict Sect, of our Religion, I lived a "pharisee: And is not *heresie* as bad a word as *Schisme*; or is it any advantage for

See Concil. 1. Constantinop. some are called Heretick, that hold the sound faith ἀποχίζοντες δὲ, καὶ αἱρεσιωτικὰς ἀρνούμενοι τοῖς κανονικοῖς ἐπισκόποις.

for a *separatist*, to change his name, from *Schismatick* to *Heretick*? The Apostle 1 *Cor.* 11. 18. 19. uses them *promiscuously*, one for another; "*I heare that there are* "*Schisms among you. For there must be he-* "*resies among you also.* The word *heresie* commonly is used to signifie *errour against Faith*, (which sense he is not pleased with, p. 46.) as *Schism* is a sin against *love*; If he like not to give his *Separation*, the name of *Schism* (though it hath fully the *nature* of it) let him have good leave to call it Heresie; This men *gaine* when they will *dispute* about words.

Besides, the Scripture uses other words to signifie Schism, in a political sense; *Math.* 12. 25. A Kingdome or house, μερισθεῖσα, divided against it selfe; that is, into parts, and so into civill warres, and dissensions, cannot stand: which *Act.* 14. 4. is expressed by ἐσχίσθη, the multitude was divided, and that into two parts (as well as opinions) as it followes; and some ἦσαν were with the Jewes, and some with the Apostles, as I noted above; If this may not rather be understood of an Ecclesiasticall separation; for it was occasioned by differences in one

Assembly,

Assembly, *v.* 1. They entred into the Synagogue of the *Jews*, *&c*: The unbelieving *Jews* stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds ill affected against the brethren, *v.* 2. which caused that separation.

And the Schism was made by those turbulent Jewes, the causes of that separation, not by the Apostles or their partie.

Schism, in the *Church*, was but an *Embrio*, in the *Apostles* time; at first a *difference* or division onely in *judgment* but quickly grew into *separation* or division into *parties*.

But we need not *plead* any other text for our *notion* of *Schism*, but what is included in this place of the *Corinthians*, having made it appeare, that there was a *separation* made in that Church, by such as *lead away Disciples* after them, or rather by them; who by having the *faith* of *our Lord Jesus Christ* in *respect of persons*, set up one *Minister* above another, and against another. However, somthing may be *deduced* by paritie of reason "If "divisions of persons, in a church, in "judgment, may be & is called Schism, in "Scripture, then Separation from a true "Church

"Church, (grounded upon those divisi-
"ons at first, in an Assembly, about un-
"necessary things, as he said) may well
"and much more, be called Schism.
p. 43. For (sayes he) "He is a Schismatick,
"guiltie of this sinne of Schism, who
"raiseth, or entertaineth, or persisteth
"in such differences. And is not he much more a *Schismatick*, who having *raised groundlesse differences* in a Church, and *persisting* in them, draws *Disciples* after him, and sets up another *Church* in opposition to that from whence he *separated*? To separate men, in *judgment*, in a Church, is a *Schism* and crime bad enough; but to separate them from the *Church*, upon the former, is farre worse. Now this, as it may be done in a *Church* of many Congregations, all *professing* the same truth, and *practising* the same worship; So the *persisting* in such differences by any one *Congregation*, against the rest, is a *Schism* in that Church (as of *Corinth*) and ends commonly in *separation* from that Church: But let us heare further, what is *required* to make *guiltie* of Schism.

§. 8. 1. "That they be members of, or be-
"long to some one Church, which is so
"by

"by the institution and appointment of "Jesus Christ. The ground of this assertion is, that he by *one Church*, meanes only one *particular Church*, or Congregation; So that if a man be not a *member* of that one Church, he can neither be a *Schismatick* to that Church, nor to any other. But this, I suppose, to be his μέγα σφάλμα, his *great mistake*, and the cause of all his *miscarriage* hereafter. For as there may be a *Schism* in a *Citie-Church*, of many Congregations, which are such, by the appointment, or *allowance* of Jesus Christ, (suppose them all *Independent*, if he please): So one that is a *member* of one of the Congregations of that *Church*, yea that is a *member* of none of those, but of some other, may be a *Schismatick* to that Church *collectively* taken, and to any one of those *particular* Congregations, to wit, if he shall *raise any differences* in any one of them, and *persist* to maintain them, being either *expresly* against the *Gospel*, or meerly of things *unnecessary*, &c. And this I shall prove; 1. By the Doctors *own principle*; "*He that raiseth diffe-* "*rences in any Congregation (and persists* "*therein) is a Schismatick*; as was newly by him assented: But that *Christian* that breaks

breaks the *peace* of any Church, more *generall* or *particular*, by *wrongious* or unnecessary disputes, *raises differences* in that Church; and therefore he is a *Schismatick*. Then it follows, that it is not *necessarily* required, to the *guilt* of *Schism*, that he be a *member* of that *one Church*, but he may be a member of *another* Church, or of *no Church*, but only a *Christian*. 2. I prove it from a *Scripture* instance, *Act.* 15. 1. "*Certaine* "*men which came down from* Judæa, (*to* "Antioch) *taught the brethren saying*, "*except ye be circumcised*, &c: *ye cannot* "*be saved*. These men were no *members* of the Church of *Antioch*, but of *Judæa*, or *Christians* at large, of no *particular* Church: yet these men, *making differences* in the Church of *Antioch*, are said, *v.* 24. "*to trouble them with words*, "*subverting their* Souls, and therefore might justly be called *Schismaticks*: He cannot now say; this was not a *Church* of the *institution* of Christ; for whether it was then but one *particular* Congregation, or consisted of *many* congregations, (as not able to *meet* in one place), both wayes; it was a *Church* of *Christs appointment*. For the very *light* of reason, speaks thus much, That when

a Congregation or *first Church*, grows too *numerous*, it should *swarm* out into lesser Congregations: and yet those *distinct Congregations* may fairly be said to be but *one Church*; and have still some *dependence* (what ever it be) one upon another.

2. "It is required (sayes he) that they "either raise, entertaine or persist in "causelesse differences, with them of "that Church, *&c*: This is answered in the former, in part. And I adde, that those *differences raised*, *&c*: in that Church, though by a member of another Church, do cause "*an Interruption of* "*that exercise of love, which ought to be* "*amongst them, and the disturbance of the* "*duties required of that Church, in the* "*worship of God*, which he requires to make one guiltie of *Schism*. It were very *strange*, that he that *entertaines*, or *persists* in those differences should be a *Schismatick*, and he that first *raised* them (though of *another Church*) should be none. §. 9. p. 44.

3. "It is further required, that these "differences be occasioned by, and do "belong to, some things, in a remoter or "neerer distance, to the worship of "*God*. This will reach a great way; §. 10.

even

even *civill differences* (as they may be called *Schism*, as we heard above, so they) may come to *trench* upon the *worship* of God. But may there not be *differences* in other matters, besides *worship*. which may amount to a *Schism*? He told us above, that Schism might be, in *unnecessary* things, *p.* 27. things that *properly* concerne not the *worship* of God? such were those *sidings about their Teachers*; not in the *worship* of God, but from *house* to *house*, as he confessed above. But supposing the *differences* to be in the *worship* of God, that is, in the *time and place* of it, may they not be in matter of *doctrine*? perhaps he will say, that is *Heresie*, or *Apostacie*, not *Schism* (for so he sayes, *p.* 161.) But 1. Every *difference* in matter of *doctrine*, is not *Heresie*, much lesse *Apostacie*; *Heresie* is not charged usually on any, but either for *fundamentall errours*, or *obstinacie* in them; And though we commonly place, *Schism*, in matter of discipline, or circumstances of worship, and Heresie in matters of doctrine, yet, as we see by experience, those that beganne with Schismaticall separations, end too oft in Heresie: So a Schism at first, if obstinately persisted in, may come to be Heresie,

resie, (for there is a doctrine of discipline, in the Scripture): and a Schismatick willfully defending his errour, though but in a matter of discipline, or other unnecessary opinions, may prove to be Hereticall. 2. Heresie and *Apostacie*, presuppose *Schism* first: So that a man may be a *Schismatick* for *raising* the *difference*, and an *Heretick* in persisting in it. And say the same of *Apostacie*; as more perhaps hereafter. Or may there not be *Schism* in a matter of *discipline*, which is distinguished from *worship*? Surely the greatest *Schisms* at this day, are found about *discipline*; As is evident, in the *difference* between *Papists* and us, *in subjection to the Pope*: between *Episcopall* men and us, about *submission* to the *Hierarchicall Government*, between the *Presbyterians* and *Independents*, where the *administration* of *discipline* lyes. And each *parties* charge one another with *Schism*; as he affirmes in his following discourse. In *doctrine* and *worship* the Independents, some of them and we agree, having the same *Confession* of *Faith*, the same *Ordinances* of *worship*. The *discipline* onely makes the *Schism*; whereof who is most guiltie, will appear anone. Certaine it is,

on

on which party soever the *charge* falls: to be guilty of this crime, they will be found " *to shew themselves carnal or to*
pag.44. " *have indulged to the flesh, and the corrupt* " *principle of Self, and their own wills, &c.*

§. 11. But he *professes*, " he could never yet meet with a *definition* of *Schism*, ' that ' did comprise, that was not exclusive of,
pag.45. ' that, which alone, in the Scripture, is ' affirmed so to be. That shall be tryed by considering the *definitions* ordinarily given. The *definition* of *Austin* is this, ' *Schisma est dissidium congregationis*; when ' men of the same judgment in doctrine, ' and same rites in worship, delight in ' the discord of the Congregation. By ' *dissidium Congregationis*, the Dr. saies he means, ' A separation from the Church, ' into a peculiar Congregation. Which was the *case* of the *Donatists*, which he had then in hand.

But 1. this *definition* is just the Doctors *Dissidium Congregationis*, is not properly a *separation* from, but in the Church; and such was that of the *Donatists* at first, till, *refusing*, or receiving no satisfaction, they *separated* into other Congregations, and bid *defiance* to the Church; which is the Common issue of
Acts 15. 39. such *intestine divisions*. *Paul* and *Barnabas*

nabas, two *holy*, *good* men, first fell into a *paroxysm* of contention, and presently *separated* and parted asunder.

2. *Basil's* definition, is almost the same; who makes 'schism to be a division arising from some Church controversies; and παροικοσυνάγωγη, to be the unlawful Conventicles, the ordinary *consequents* of such division; First, they *raise divisions*, that's the first degree of *Schism*; from *Schism* they fall into *Heresie*, the second degree; and then *separate into* new *conventions*, which is the highest Schism. Nor, because of later years, honest and pious *meetings* for Religion, were called *Conventicles*, and *Schism*, therefore may men conclude, that there is now no *Schism* in unlawful *Conventions* apart from a true Church, when it shall be determined so to be. pag. 46.

3. The Common definition given, 'That Schism is a causeless separation 'from the communion and worship of 'any true Church, &c. presupposes a *Division* in that *Church*, which *occasions* that separation, one party not being *satisfied* by the other. The *Crime* of which *separation*, must be taken, and judged by the *unjustness* of the cause thereof, which

cannot be in a *true Church*, but in those that *separate* from it. For if a Church, be either no *true Church*, or so extreamly *corrupted*, that a good *Christian* cannot hold *Communion* with it without *sin*, such a *separation* is no *Schism*, but they are the *Schismaticks*, who give the *cause* of that separation. But the *Reverend Doctor* is very large in his allowance of Separation; for he saies, 'Certain he is, that
pag. 46. 'a *separation* from some Churches, true, 'or pretended so to be, is commanded 'in the Scripture; so that the withdraw-'ing from any Church, or society what-'ever, upon the plea of its corruption be 'it true or false, with a mind & resolu-'tion to serve God in the due observati-'on of Church institutions, according 'to that light which we have received, 'is no where called Schism, nor con-'demned as a thing of that nature &c. If this be true, there will be found but litle or no Schism in any Church, or in the World. If a man may *lawfully separate* from a *true Church*, as well as from a *false*, and that upon a *false* plea of its *corruption*, as well as *true*, only with a *good mind* to serve God, in *Church institutions*, true, or *conceited* by his own *light*; all the *Sectaries* & *Separatists*, *Donatists* &

Brow-

Brownists in the world may be *justified*. But this will come again below; thither I shall remit the particular *scanning* of it.

Now lest (by the former indulgence) § 12.
any should surmise, that he *complyes with* p. 47.
them, that have slight and contemptible thoughts of Schism, or to plead for his own Separation from our true Churches (as we are able to prove them) he will at present heighten the heinousnesse of Schism, when he hath first considered what aggravations, others have put upon it.

1. Some say, it is 'a renting of the § 13.
'seamlesse coat of *Christ*, but (saies he) pag. 48.
'they seem to have mistaken their aim,
'and instead of aggravating, extenuated
'it: a rent of the body is not hightned,
'in its being called, the renting of a
'seamless *coat*. But this is but a *nicity*. I suppose they us'd it only by way of *allusion, à minore ad majus*. The *Souldiers* thought it not *wisdom* to divide that *seamlesse coat*, whereby it would be rendered *uselesse* to all; how much more *heinous* was it to rent his Body. The *Church* is called *Christs mystical* Body. Look then as it was an *heinous* thing to those *Souldiers* to divide his *seamless* coat, and much more to divide by *piercing* his

natural body: so it is more hainous to *rent* his *body mystical*; which must needs reach to him the *Head*. This is the Apostles way of arguing, 1 *Cor.* 1. 13. *Is Christ divided?* q. d. Do you not by these *divisions*, divide and rent the *Body of Christ*? and does not *Christ* himself *suffer* in such divisions? But enough of that.

μεμέρισται *divided into parts.*

§ 14. *pag.* 49. 2. "It is usually said to be a sin against Charity, as Heresie is against Faith: but is Schism so a sin against Charity? doth it supplant and root out love out of the *Heart*? He means so, as *Heresie* does the *Faith*. But that's not the question; but whether *Schism* be not a *sinne* against *Charity*, as well (though not as much) as *Heresie* is a sin against *Faith*? And suppose it do not *root* out *Charity*, may it not *supplant*, or at least *suppress* & weaken it? may it not *interrupt* the exercise of the *duties* of love (as he said above *p.* 27.) "their Church order, as to Love, Peace, Union, were wofully disturbed with divisions, *&c.* And if *Schism* be *persisted* in, it may in the end *root* out *Charity*, and be inconsistent with it, as well as *Heresie* doth the *Faith*: Nor does every *Heresie* root out all *Faith*; a man may be an *Heretick*

in

in one *Article*, and *Orthodox* in the Faith, in others. Yea, himself here confesses, "men by *Schism* are kept off "from the performance of any of those "offices, and duties of love, which are "useful, or necessary for the preservation of the bond of perfection, and then "is it, or may in some sense, be said to "be a sin against *Love*. When the Apostle saies, that "*Love is the bond of perfection, because it preserves that perfect "and beautifull order amongst the Saints, "notwithstanding all hinderances and oppositions made by Schism*; He tells us rather what true *love* is in itself, and ought to be in us, than what it is *manifested* to be in mens corrupt hearts, and conversations. They then that described it to be "*open breach of love*, aimed near, at the true *nature* it; which his *warry consideration*, doth not excuse from *Schism*. For suppose it were possible, "for a man to be all, and do all, that "those were and did, whom the Apostle "judges for *Schismaticks*, under the power of some violent temptation, and "yet have his heart full of love to the "Saints, to the communion disturbed by "him, which is very rare; Yet that person, who ever he be, could not be excused

pag. 49.

Divisions among them breaches of Love: so he, pag. 69.

pag. 50.

cused from *Schism and a breach of charity*, any more than those, whom the *Apostle* calls *Schismaticks*, who no doubt some of them, were under some *violent temptation*. It is again confessed, "It is "thus far a breach of love, in its own "nature, in that in such men, Love can-"not exert it self, in its utmost tenden-"cy, in wisdom and forbearance for the "preservation of order in the Church. If this had been said at first, this had been enough to *aggravate* the *sinfulnesse* of *Schism*.

§ 15. pag. 50. 3. As for those, who say, "*it is a re-"bellion against the Rulers of the Church*; if they mean it, in regard of their *Canons* and imposition of unnecessary Ceremonies *&c.* let them plead for themselves. But if he mean, that *Schism* may be raised, against the *instituted Rulers* of the Church, walking in the *truths*, and *waies* of *Christ*, (as well as against any other *members* of the Church) it may be so far called *Rebellion* against the *Rulers* of the Church, as they that *despise Christs Embassadors*, despise Him also, the *mischiefs* whereof, extend to the whole *Church*. And commonly the *Schism* begins against the *Rulers* of the Church; as that against *Moses* and *Aaron* did: So that at

Corinth

Corinth in *Clements* time. This is too evident, at this time, That all the present *Schisms*, strike principally at the *Ministers* of the *Gospel*, All *Sects*, contending against them *primarily*, and reproaching of them, either as *Antichristian*, or as no *true Ministers* (besides worser names of *ignominie* and contempt) wherein the *Dr.* and his *party*, are not a little *guilty*, as will appear before we have done. *He calls them parochial Priests.* *pag.* 235.

Whether *Schismaticks* be *Church Members*, or no, is a question of no great concernment. The *Doctor* is peremptory § 16. "It is impossible a man should be a "Schismatick, unless he be a Church *p.* 51. "member. If he mean it of a member of the *Catholick* Church, its granted: for an *Heathen* cannot be a *Schismatick*. But if he mean (as I believe he does) no man can be *such*, unless he be a member of a *particular* Church, it is made appear to the contrary above, and shall be more hereafter. For the present I only say, Suppose a *Schismatick* of himself *departs* from the *Church*, or is *ejected* by the Church; yet still *persists* to maintaine the *differences* by him *raised*, in that Church; I desire to know, whether he ceases to be a *Schismatick*, because he is now no member of that Church, or is

not still such, by the *Doctors* own *principles*? But too much of that.

§ 17. Upon the *Definition* of *Schism*, given by himself, "A causless difference, or division, amongst the members of any particular *Church*, that meet or ought to meet to the *worship* of God, *&c.* he proceeds to deliver the *Aggravations* of the *sin* of *Schism*, wherein I shall agree with him fully; though not in his *definition*, in all particulars, as was said above. That, that is a *Schism* I confess, & contains a *part*, but not the whole *nature* thereof. For, as I believe, a *Schism* may be made in a *particular Church*, by one that is no *member* thereof, (*seducers* use to *creep* into houses and *Churches*, and *raise differences*). So I think, a *particular Church*, or some *members* of it, may make a Schism in & from the *Catholick* Church, or other particular *Churches*, which shall be capable of those *aggravations* by him given. Look as in the *body natural*, there may be supposed a *Schism*, amongst the *fingers* of either *hand*, whereof they are the more *immediate members*, which yet may truly be said, to be a *Schism*, in relation to the *whole body*, which hath *influence* into, and *interest* in those *members*, and shall suffer not a little by their *divisions*:

pag. 52. Is not this a mans definition, & the strength of it this? such an act is Schisme, therefore none else is: See p. 44.

sions: So it is in the *body mystical*, though the *divisions* immediatly disturb the *particular Church*, where they *arise*, yet they also reach to the *disquiet*, and danger of the next *Congregations*, and then of the *whole Church*, "*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*. A *mutinie* begun in a single *troop*, hath been the ruin of the whole *Army*. The *Design* (however *disclaimed* p. 47. f.) I fear is this. This *definition* of *Schism* is forelaid, and so oft *repeated* to prevent the *charge* thereof, upon *himself* and his own *select congregation*. If they have but so much *wit*, or so much *grace*, as either not to *raise*, or not to *discover* any *causlesse differences* amongst themselves, though they *separate* from, and *disturbe* the *peace* and *union* of the whole *national Church*, or all the *Churches* of a Nation, they are by no means to be styled *Schismaticks*. But more of this, in *Hypothesi*, when he comes to *apply* it to themselves.

Whether the *Church* of *Rome*, is a *Church* of *Christ*, or no, and how they are *Schismatical*; I list not to be their *Advocate*, they are old enough, to answer his *charge* themselves. I think he hath said enough (if not too much) to vindicate the *Protestant Churches* from *Schism*, §. 18. *pag.* 56.

in

in their *separation* from *Rome*. But his *principle* will carry him further, not only to *unchurch Rome*, but also all *Protestant Churches*, at home and abroad, for want (as he thinks) of a *right constitution* by *Jesus Christ*: as well as to free himself and his from the *crime* of *Schism*: as will presently appear. Only I observe that he does not charge *Rome* it self to be *Schismatical*, but upon *supposition*, that it is a *Church*; (which he denies below) then indeed, by her *intestine divisions*, she is the most *schismatical* Church in the world; but if *no Church*, not *schismatical*; whereas our *Divines*, have proved her *schismatical*, not only by her *intestine differences* but chiefly by her *schismatical principles*, as those above *mentioned*, That she is the *Catholick Church*, and none out of her *Communion*, are any better than *Hereticks*, or Heathens. That *Ordination* is void, except done by her *Bishops*; and also, and especially, by her *abominable corruptions*, *doctrine*, and worship, departing therein from the *Scriptures*, and example of the *Apostolical* Churches. Now his *chief*, if not only *principle*, to conclude himself not *schismatical*, in *separating* from *Rome*, is this, "That "there was never any such thing, as that "which

Our Conventicles are no Churches, but styes of beasts p.63. say they.

pag. 60.

"which is called the Church of *Rome*, in-
"stituted in reference to the worship of
"God by Jesus Christ, which he here-
after affirms also of *National*, and *Presby-*
terian Churches, as he thereby *frees* him-
self from *Schism*, in *separating* from all
Churches in the world: So he there-
with *unchurcheth* all our *Churches*, as well
as *Rome*.

For so he saies; "upon the same prin- § 19.
"ciple, a plea, for freedom from the *pag.* 64.
"charge of any Church, really, or pre-
"tended, as National, may be founded
"and confirmed. That *principle* is the *de-*
finition of Schism before given, "Schism
"is an evil amongst the members of a
"Church. And hence he inferred a-
gainst the Church of *Rome*, "If our own
"Congregations be not Churches, what-
"soever we are, we are not *Schismaticks*.
And against them that plead for a Nati-
onal Church, and charge them with
Schism for separating from it; he saies
again; "If we are not of the National
"Church, (as they protest they are not) *pag.* 67.
"whatever we are, we are not *Schisma-*
"*ticks*. And this will once more be
made use of, against the charge of Schism,
in separating from our present Churches;
as we shall see below. But he makes a

Dilemma

Dilemma, and thinks it both waies unanswerable, "either we are of the National Church of *England*, or we are "not. If not, whatever we are, we are "not *Schismaticks*. If we are, and must "be of it, whether we will or no, being "made so, we know not how, *&c.* shew "us then, what office of Love is incumbent on us, that we do not perform. His *arguing* is not *distinct*, having not tot told us what he means by a *National Church*. If he take it, (as he seems to do) for the *Hierarchical Church*, with *National Officers*, with subordinations, *&c.* I would say, Its certain, himself was once of that *National Church*, a *member* of it, perhaps zealous of *Episcopacy*, and an *exact observer* of its *Canons*; So that, if that *National Church* be proved (as it is by some attempted) to be a *Church* of *Christs institution*, he cannot be excused from *Schism* in *separating* from it. For though they cannot charge him, as now, of that Church, both it *being abolished*, and himself *changed* into another way, yet they may say, he was not long since, a *member* of that *National Church*. But if he take *National Church*, as the *Churches* were in the *Nation*, all *professing* the same truth, and *exercising* the

the same *substantial worship*, (as the most Orthodox understood *England* to be a *National* Church) he must either acknowledge himself to be still a member of this *National Church*, (as he does *pag.* 224.) or else *renounce communion* with her also as no *Church*, or *Churches* of *Christ*: which whether he does or no, comes after to be considered.

For the other *horn* of his *Dilemma*, §. 20. "If they are, and must be of this National Church *&c.* what duty of Love is "there, which they owe to it, and do "not perform? Seeing he makes the *challenge*, and professes, "that if it can "be shewn, he will address himself to it. I shal take the pains to inform him fully, before we have done; only now considering what he saies here. "Do we not "(saies he) joyn in external acts of wor- p. 67. "ship, in peace, with the whole Church? "Call the whole Church together, & try "what we will do? Is not all this *equivocally* spoken? In what *external acts* of *worship*, do they joyn with us, as a *Church*? Do they not disown us, as no *Churches*? and our *Ministers* as no *Ministers*? & admit none to *worship* with them, but *confederat* members? When they sometimes *preach* in our Congregations, or *hear* us *preach*,

do

do they not count themselves to us, and us to themselves, as *gifted brethren* only, but no *Ministers*? And what means he by the *whole Church*? or how can it be called together? unless he mean his own Church, or Churches. How then do they *joyn* in every Congregation in the *Nation*? When (though they *presume* to preach in our Churches, to *steal* away our people from us) their *own people* will seldome or never come into our *Congregations* to hear, unless *some of them preach. Ad populum phaleras.* And as for their *joyning* in *peace*, with the whole Church, it is a *Blind*: for they *separate* themselves with some of our *members*, from our *Churches*, to the great *discouragement* of the *Ministers*, and greater *disturbance* of the whole, and all the *Churches* of the Nation.

§. 21. pag. 70, The *Counsel* that he gives "to members of particular Churches, who have "voluntarily given up themselves, to "walk in them, according to the appointment of Jesus Christ, I fear, *extends* no further than to his *formed* and confederate Churches, That they would be *careful* to prevent *causeless differences*, in their own *meetings*, or among themselves; which if they do, let them all

say

say what they will, they are no *Schismaticks*. For as for our *particular* Congregations, they scarce account them *Churches*, though most of the members of them, "have voluntarily given up themselves explicitely, or implicitely (as "New England men confesse) to walk "in them, according to the appointment "of Jesus Christ. And if they grant ours to be *true Churches*, they must necessarily acknowledge, those who first *raised* causeless *differences* in them, & now *foment* them by *separation* from them, to be *Schismaticks*, by his own *description*. Yea so much worse, than those *Corinthians*, whose case he *exemplifies*, if so be they did not upon their *differences*, separate into *parties* and *Churches*, (which he denies, but we conceive they did) and *these* both *raise differences*, and then *separate* from our Churches, into several *combinations*; and one sayes, I am of *Pauls* Congregation, and another, I am of *Apollo's*, I speak this in a *figure*, as *Paul* did. He can easily apply it. 1 *Cor.* 4. 6.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Causeless Separation from a true Church is Schism.

§ 1. HE now fearing this or the like *Objection*, (as *obvious* to be made by
pag. 72. every man) "That if Schism be only a-
"mongst the members of one Church,
"then the separation of any man or
men, from a true Church, or one Church
"from another, is not *Schism*; which is
contrary to the judgement of most *Christians*, *Divines*, and *Churches*; he hopes
to help himself by his old *definition* of
Schism, in the Scripture *precise* description of it, as he limited above: And *peremptorily* denies, that "in that sense,
pag. 73. "there is any relinquishment, depar-
"ture, or separation from any Church, or
"Churches, mentioned or intimated in
"the Scripture, which is, or is called
"Schism, or agreeth with the description
"by them given us, of that term. But to
this, I have many things to say. 1. That
precise signification of the word, and *description* of the thing is before disproved.
The word properly signifies a *separation* of a Body into *parts*, and is applyed both
to *political* and *Ecclesiastical* Bodies in
the Scripture; as was proved above.

2. Sup-

2. Supposing that to be the *onely sense* mentioned in the case of the *Corinthians* (which is denyed and disproved) yet may another sense be *intimated* in Scripture, and *deduced* by *regular* and rationall consequence. The word signifying indefinitely *seperation*, either in *opinion*, or *parts*, is it not a faire consequence? "If seperation in judgement "in a Church, be a Schism, much more "upon that difference, to separate from "a Church, into another against the "*Church*: 3. St. *John* blames some for *separating* from the Church, 1 *Joh.* 2. 19. *they went out from us, &c*: as is the manner of *Schismaticall* and *Heretical* Spirits: being *obstinate* in their *opinions*, and opposed by the *Church*, they stay not, till they are *cast out*, but go out, and become the *head* of a *faction*, against the Church: as *histories* do abundantly manifest. 4. His own places brought for instances of *blameable separation* from a Church, do all or some minde the *nature* of *Schism*, as *precedaneous* to that separation, therefore this sense is *intimated* in the Scripture, we shall consider them in order.

§. 2. 1. The first produced, is *Heb.* 10. 25. "not forsaking the Assembling of our "selves together, as some do: He renders the words (for his own advantage) "not wholly deserting the Assembling "of our selves, *&c*: and makes it to be "Apostacie from the faith, and there-"upon forsaking the Assemblies: would any man call these *Schismaticks*, sayes hee?

p. 74.

He formerly glossed this text, of neglecting the publick Assemblyes onely: see Appendix. §. 14.

He makes the context to be with the 26. *v.* that so he may draw it to Apostacie, they departed to *Judaism*; but it rather looks back to the 24. *v.* Let us consider one another to provoke unto love & good works, which is the fruit of brotherly watchfullnesse in members of a Congregation; *Mat.* 18. 15. μὴ ἐγκαταλείποντες τὴν ἐπισυναγωγὴν ἑαυτῶν, not forsaking the assembling, *&c*: but forsaking another, *q. d.* If we forsake the assemblyes of the Church, we shall quickly neglect that brotherly mutuall care and inspection of one another, and so fall into separation or Apostacie. And the 26 *v.* rather referres to the latter end of the 25. *v.* but exhorting one another so much the rather, as you see the day approaching: For if we sinne willingly, *&c*: If we forsake the assemblyes

blyes, neglecting brotherly inspection; and so fall into Schism, or Apostacie, (from one to the other) the end will be dreadfull.

But first, the Latine Interpreters expound it, of *forsaking* the Assemblyes, either by *Schism* or *Apostacie*. 2. Apostacie is *graduall*, either *partiall* in some point of Faith; or *totall* in all; the first may proceed to a *Schism* in the Church; the second to a *separation* from the Church. As those, *Act.* 15. that in part forsook the *way* of the Gospell, and joyned *Moses* with *Christ*, circumcision with baptism, are said *to go out from* the Apostles, *v.* 24. "Certaine, that "went out from us, have troubled you "with words: These were *Schismaticks* in the one, and *Apostates*, or *Separatists* in the other. An *Heretick* or an *Apostate* may be a *Schismatick*, and something more; as a *Schismatick* too often proves an *Heretick*. For when *seducers* have first *raised divisions* in a Church, they either *voluntarily forsake* it, or are justly *ejected* by the Church, and then *gather* their Disciples into distinct bodyes; in *opposition* to the Church as I said above. The Apostle describes them thus; *Act.* 20. 30. "Of your

Estius in loc.

"own selves shall men arise, speaking "perverse things to draw away disciples "after them. These are *grievous Wolves*, *v.* 23. so farre from taking *care* of the flock, that they *rent* and *teare* it, not sparing the flock. And therefore the Apostle joynes these together, 1 *Cor.* 12. 25. "That there should be no "Schism in the body, but that the "members should have the same "care one for another: Implying that where there is a *Schism*, in the Church, the members neglect the *care* one of another; and when the members neglect the care one of another, there's a *Schism* in the Church. But if they so farre neglect the *care* of one another, as to *seperate* from the Church, that's an *higher degree* of Schism, even a *double Schism*. As in the *body naturall*; if it be a *Schism*, for one member to *rent* and teare another, *in the* body, much more to *rend* and *divide* themselves *from* the body, when they cannot have any *care* one of another. Wee see this exemplifyed at this day. When men have first *raised divisions* in the Church, they *seperate* from the Church, and *gather* themselves into *distinct* bodies, having no *care* for the body from whence they seperated,

scarce owning them for *Churches*, but rather account them *no true Churches*, *reproaching* and reviling them; Are not these *Schismaticks*.

2. The second place, for *blameable separation*, is "of some, who withdraw "themselves from Church-communion, "at least for a season by their disorderly "and irregular walking. 1 *Thes.* 5. 14. "ἄτακτοι, and ἄτοποι, 2 *Thes.* 3. 2. 6. "Such there were in the primitive "times, and in our dayes, whom we "charge not with Schism, but vanity, "folly, and disobedience to the precepts "of Christ, in generall. No mervail these are not charged with *Schism*; for they neither *raised divisions* in the Church, nor *separated* from the Church but were *disorderly* and *irregular* out of the Church, in *neglect* of their *callings*; So the Apostle expressly instances, 2 *Thes.* 3. 11. "wee heare that there "are some which walk among you dis-"orderly, not working at all, but are "busybodies. They did not *separate* from the Church, but rather (as *some* now do) made their *frequenting* of *publick* meetings and exercises, the *Cloake* for their *idlenesse*; thinking the *Church* was bound to maintaine them. They

§. 3. p. 75.

were so farre from *separating* from the Church, that some (who bring, *v.* 14. for *excommunication*) think, the Apostle commands the Church to *separate* them, (if they upon warning, mend not this fault) from the Societie. Others think that he commands them onely to *withdraw* from them, in *civill* respects, and if they will not *labour*, let them *starve*, *v.* 10. As for those ἄτοποι, in the 2d verse, which he calls "persons that a-"bide quietly in no place, or station; it is supposed they were not the same men but *persecutors* of the Apostle, most *absurdly* and unreasonably: He knows ἄλογοι is a *Logicall* terme; signifying absurd men, that know not the *Topicks*, or heads of reasoning; and these are joyned with *wicked* and faithlesse men. However, the Apostle commanding them to *warne* those *disorderly men as brothers*, by no meanes can be suspected, to *charge* them for *separation*. Yet if he will needs understand it of their *separation* from Church *communion*, we shall charge them, not only with *vanity*, *folly*, *disobedience*, but also with *Schism*. For they might stirre up *dissensions* in the Church, by *defence* of their idlenesse (which himself calls *Schism*) and then *separate* from the Church: but enough of that.

3. "Men

3. "Men also separated themselves, "upon sensualitie, that they might free- "ly indulge to their lusts, and live in all "manner of pleasure all their dayes; "*Jude* 19. *v.* These are they that sepe- "rate themselves, *&c*: That some men do *seperate* from the Church, upon *doctrines of Libertie* and licentiousnesse, is too evident, as in the *old Gnosticks*, so in the *late Ranters*, and *Family* of Love; but no doubt these men maintained their *opinions* and practises in the *Church*, so long as they could, which caused *divisions* in the Church, and so were *Schismaticks*: and after separated into their own *abominable meetings*, as the world knows. That the Apostle spake of the *same* men in the 4, 7, 8, 10, verses, and in the 19. verse, is not probable, for those *formen* did not *separate* from the Church, (or were not then *separated*) for he speaks of them as *frequenters* of the *Assemblyes*, *v.* 12. "These are spots in your feasts "of charitie, when they feast with you, "feeding themselves without feare. These *Agapa*, *Love feasts*, were kept in their *Church-meetings*, at the *Sacrament*; therefore they were not *separated*. And as for the 19. verse, its the *judgment* of

§. 4. p. 76.

learned *Divines*, it imports just the *nature* of *seducers*, who *draw disciples* after them, out of the Church. The word used to denote this *separation* is ἀποδιοπίζουσες, which, *Oecumenius* sayes, comes from ἀπὸ and signifies, *extra terminos ecclesiæ quempiam educere, elicere*, to *lead*, or *draw* men out of the Church: and so implyes, they did not onely *separate* themselves, but *drew* others also into *seperation*. And *Clem. Alexandr.* interprets it, *segregantes fideles à fidelibus, id est, alios ab aliis*: *Seperating* the *faithfull from the faithfull*, that is, some *members* of the Church from other: In a word, others understand it of both kinds of *separation*, *tam in doctrina quam in cœtibus*; in *opinions* and parties, or assemblyes. And both these being *causesesse divisions*, are by all accounted *Schism*. Now the reverend Doctor, to avoid this, calls these *Abominations*, and not Schism, and askes, "whether "the men of these abominations are to "be accounted Schismaticks, or their "crime, in separating, *Schism*? But this is but a *disguise* of the business; For there may be *Schism* in this (and the other two afore) and *something more*. He that *raises* dissentions in a Church, and then

p. 27.

As Anabaptists, Quakers, &c: do not cease to be Independents, but act that, and something more.

then *separates* from it; either by *Apostacie*, *Idlenesse*, or *sensualitie*, carryes his brand of a *Schismatick* with him; though it seeme to be *swallowed* up, in *further abominations*. There are degrees of *Schism*, (as I said) which are not *denominated* from the *terminus ad quem*, the *wickednesse* that such proceed unto; but from the *terminus à quo*, that is from a *true Church*. I shall put him a case; If a *member* of his Congregation, inclining to *Apostacie*, *Idlenesse*, or *sensuality* should first *raise* divisions in his Church, concerning any of those, and then should *seperate* from his Church, either into *irregular walking*, as some *Antinomians*, or into *Abhominations*, as some *Ranters*, or into totall *Apostacie* and *Atheism*, which many are *fallen* into, from the *height* of this way; would he not say these were *Schismaticks* and something *worse*? And of all it may be said, "These are they that separate themselves: I leave it to him.

But he is so confident of the contrary, that he redoubles more vigourously, his former Assertion. "I say, for a man to "with-draw, or with-hold himself from "the Communion externall and visible of

§. 5.

p. 77.

"of any Church, or Churches, on the "pretension and plea, be it true or o-"therwise, that the worship, doctrine, "discipline instituted by Christ, is cor-"rupted among them, with which cor-"ruption he dares not *defile* himselfe, "it is no where, in the Scripture called "Schism, *&c.* Before I come to *scanne* the words in particular, I shall say, in generall, this is a *fallacious*, because an *ambiguous*, assertion. For 1. He tells not whether a man may *separate*, when there is *corruption* in some one of these onely, or in all of them. 2. Nor how far *some* or all of these, must be *corrupted*, before we may *separate*. 3. All these were as much corrupted (and more) in the *Jewish Church*, as in ours, (when he and his *partie separated* from us) and yet our *Saviour* and his *Apostles* continued their *Communion* with it: and the Church of *Corinth*, in all these, was as much and more *corrupted*, than ours, yet the *Apostle* mentions, no separating from it: 4. He now requires that it be *called* Schisme in Scripture; when as before, he said, if it had the *nature* of it, it was *sufficient*. 5. If a bare *Plea* against corruptions, *true or false*, may warrant a *separation*, then the most *rigid*

sepe-

seperatists may be, and are by him *acquitted* from Schism; as I said above. But more particularly; He hath not rightly *stated* the question, as now it lyes between us: which is not of a single mans *secession* from a true Church, a *particular Congregation*; to joyne himselfe to another *Church*, of the same *Constitution*, where he may enjoy (as he thinks) the *Ordinances* more *purely*, or more *profitably*. For it was ever lawfull for a man to *remove* his *habitation*, and to joyne himselfe to such a *Congregation*. But the *pinch* of the question is, "whether a man, or a company "of men, may separate from a true "Church, upon a plea of corruption in "it, true or false, set up another Church, "as to all Ordinances, renouncing that "Church, to be a true Church. And so much the *worse* and more *Schismaticall* is that *separation*, from a true *Church*, when either those *men* that separate, have not done those *duties* incumbent on them, to *reforme* it; or that Church is upon a *Resolution* and *endeavour*, to reforme itselfe according to the *Rule* of the Gospell. This is plainly our case at present, with the Doctor and his *Associates*.

But

§. 6. But he further affirmes; "Of one
p. 78. "Church particular, departing from
"that communion with another, or o-
"thers, be it what it will, which it
"ought to hold, unlesse in the departing
"of some of them, in some things, from
"the common Faith, which is suppo-
"sed not to relate to Schism, in the
"Scripture we have no example. The more *happie* were those times, that they yeelded no such example. But if they did not, yet if they give us an example of one Church, divided upon *differences*, into severall Congregations, or to some Ordinances (as we proved they do) they come very neere the case of *Schism* before us; And himselfe hath granted, that upon *supposition* that *Rome* is a (particular) Church (as opposed to the *Catholick*) she is the most *Schismaticall* Church in the world; not onely in regard of her own *intestine divisions* (as he) but also in her *separation* from the *Apostolicall primitive Church*, in doctrine, worship and discipline; (as our Divines do maintaine) upon this account it was, that the *Divines* of the *Assembly* said; "To leave all ordinary communion in
"any Church, with dislike where oppo-
See p. 141 "sition, or offence offers it selfe, is to
sepa-

"seperate from such a Church, in the "Scripture sense; though they adde, "such separation was not in being in "the Apostles time. His exception to this, is frivolous, "How they came to "know exactly the sense of the Scripture "in and about things not mentioned in "them, I know not. The reconciliation is easie; In the *Apostles* time, or in that case of the *Corinthians*, (such was their happinesse) there was no separation of one Church from another, in that high manner, as after they did; but yet the Scripture gives a faire ground, by way of *consequence*; there and in other places, above named, to conclude, that if *separation* in a *Church*, in *opinions* and judgement, be a *Schism*, much more *separation* from a true Church by persons, or Churches, leaving all ordinary communion with it, with dislike or opposition, is to be accounted Schism; especially if they first depart from the *common Faith*, and then, upon that *difference*, separate from the Church. And therefore, though he be *unwilling*, I shall not doubt but to be able "*to compell him* to "carry on the notion of Schism, further than yet he hath done.

pag. 79.

But

§. 7. But that he may shew his *skill* and *gratifie* his Adversaries, he will carry on
p. 81. this discourse to a *fuller issue*, according to the common definition of *Schism*; "That it is a breach of union, onely he will put in "a reasonable *postulatum*, "that this union be an union of the ap- "pointment of Jesus Christ, which I shall freely grant him; provided he do not limit *Schism*, as formerly he did, to the *worship* of God only: yet that he does here againe; "The consideration "of what sort of union, in reference to "the worship of God (marke that) is "instituted by Jesus Christ, is the foun- "dation of what I have further to offer, *&c*: The *Designe* of this is, that he may have a *faire retreat*, when he is charged with *breach of union*, in other respects, and so with *Schism*; to escape by this *evasion*, "This breach of union, is not "in reference to the worship of God, in "one Assembly, met to that end. And that is onely *Schism* in the Scripture-*notion*; as he hath often said. But I shall attend his *motion*.

§. 8. "This union being instituted in the "Church, according to the various ac- "ceptions of that word, so it is distin-

"guished

" guished: For which purpose he undertakes three things, to shew. 1. " The " severall considerations of the Church, " with which union is to be preserved. " 2. What that union is, we are to keep " with the Church, in each consideration. 3. How that union is broken, " and what the sinne whereby it is done. Wherein we shall follow him, as farre as we are *concerned*, leaving others to plead for themselves. *p.* 82.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Church Catholick *Mysticall, and its Union.*

THe Church of Christ in this world, is taken in Scripture three wayes, " 1. For the mysticall body of Christ, " his elect redeemed, *&c:* commonly " called the Church Catholick militant, " 2. For the universalitie of men, called by the Word, visibly professing the " Gospell, called the Church Catholick " visible. 3. For a particular Church " of some place, wherein the instituted " worship §. 1. *p.* 84.

"worship of God in Christ, is celebra-
"ted according to his mind. This *di-
stinction* of the *Church*, is rather of the word, than of the thing intended by it; & imports not a three-fold Church, but one Church under a threefold *consideration*: "arising (as he sayes) from the "nature of the things themselves, that is, the *members* of that Church, who may be considered, either *as true believers*, that makes the *invisible* Church, 1, as *professors* of the same Faith, & that makes the *Catholike visible* Church: or thirdly as *partakers* of the same *instituted* worship, and that is called a particular Church: For, as the definition of a Church agrees to it, in all the three considerations; "It is a societie of men "called out of the world, by the word, "*&c*: So, the same persons are or may be *members* of all the three *Churches*, or in that *threefold* consideration of it, at once. He that is a true *believer* of the *invisible* Church, is also a *professor* of the Faith, and so a member of the *Catholike* visible Church, and he that is of both those, is or ought to be (if possible) a *member* of a particular Church: Now the *Church*, having its rise and *nature* from a *call*, (as the word imports) that *call* admitting of severall *degrees*, causes

this

this three-fold *notion* of the Church, That *call* in Scripture, is either *internall*, which he calls *effectuall*; or *externall*, and that again admits of degrees: men are called either to the *profession* of Faith onely (lacking opportunity of publick Ordinances) or to *participation* of the instituted worship also; In their *obedience* to the first *call*, they are said to be members of the *Church invisible*; to the second, to be members of the *Catholike visible*; to the third, to be members of a *particular Church*: And his *own way* of raising the former distinction, is the same for substance, *p.*84. §. 2. Hence the *necessitie* of *Churches* in the last *acception* is not onely, because members of a particular Church, *are bound to externall rules for joynt communion* (for to those very *rules*, are members of the *invisible* and visible Church *bound* also, when it is possible): but partly because; the *Catholike Church*, in either sense cannot all *meet* in one place; and partly because, the *opportunitie* to yeeld *obedience* to those rules of joynt *communion* cannot be *exercised* but in a particular *Societie*, not too great, or *numerous*.

§. 2. 1. For his first consideration of the Church, which he calls "the Mysticall
page 84. "body of Christ his elect, *&c*: the Church Catholike militant, I have but a little to say. I observe onely, first that he restraines the *Catholick Church invisible*, onely to this world, as *militant*; whereas commonly our *Divines* take it for the whole *number* of the *elect*, both *Militant* and *Triumphant*, from *Heb.* 12. 23. "The generall assembly, "and Church of the first borne, which are "written in heaven. 2. That he makes the *Church invisible*, the onely *Mysticall body* of Christ, which is ordinarily applyed to the *Catholike visible* Church also; as contradistinguished to the *civill* or *politicall* body of a state.
See, my Vind, Vind. p. 9. 3. That he cites *Math.* 16. 28. to prove the *Catholike invisible* Church, which is commonly understood of the *Catholike visible Evangelicall* Church; He sayes;
page 88. "They that will apply this (text) to the "Church in any other sense, must know "that it is incumbent on them to esta-"blish the promise made to it, unto e-"very one that is a true member of the "Church, in that sense, which will be "difficult, *&c*: But I say, that the *promise* in that text (and the rest cited) is made

made good to every one that is a true member of the *invisible* Church, is true; They are built upon that Rock, and the *gates* of Hell shall never prevaile against them; but yet it may be true, with respect, (if not to a *particular* Church, which may faile, yet) to the *Catholike visible* Church; which as it is built upon that *Rock*, the *confession* of *Peter*; *that Jesus Christ is the Sonne* of *God*, and the *Messiah* come; So it is to continue to the worlds end, and the gates of Hell shall not prevaile *totally* to destroy it. And this himselfe confesses, "I no way "doubt of the perpetuall existence of "innumerable believers in every age, "and such as made the profession, that "is absolutely necessary to salvation, one "way or other, *p.* 86. *f.* There is then a *perpetuall existence* of the Church, not onely *invisible*, as true *beleivers*, but also of the *visible*, as *professors* of the Faith of the Gospell; and so the promise is made good to it. Indeed the *promise* in that text, is made to the *whole Church* indefinitely, and respectively; but not to every *particular* person in it; nor to every *particular* Church: There shall be a *Church* of true beleivers and professors of the Faith in all ages, but whe-

ther it be made to a particular Church, "That Christ hath had alwayes a "Church, in this sense, in the world, himselfe sayes is a *needlesse enquiry*, *p.* 85. §. 5. Of which more perhaps hereafter.

§. 3. The second thing considerable is, the *Union* of the members of this *Catholicke invisible* Church, among themselves; which he makes to be; "The Inhabita-
pag. 95. "tion, of the same Spirit, or the anima-"tion of the whole by the Spirit; this "is the fountaine radicall union of this "Church, in it selfe, and with its head "with the formall reason of it. But he cannot but know, that some of his *own way*, make *Faith* it selfe, in all the single *believers*, to be the forme of this invisi-
*D.*Amef. Mcedull. *l.* 1. *c.* 31. §. 21. ble Church; which they call the *state essentiall* of this Church; they meane, the *essence of the Church* is preserved by *Faith*, in single *believers*: but I contend not: Be it *Faith*, or the *Spirit* of Faith, in its graces and operations, the matter is not great. But besides this *radicall union*, he makes a *double consequentiall*
pag. 96. *union* flowing from that. "1. of Faith "2. of Love, of all those united in the "head, towards one another, and of

"every

"every one towards the whole. But these are improperly called *unions*; they are rather *consequents* of that union by one Spirit, than consequentiall unions; and rather are the *meanes* of communion, Faith with the Head, Love with the members; So he sayes "*I* *pag. 98.*
"*cannot say, they have their union in*
"*themselves by Love, but it is the next*
"*immediate principle of that communion;*
"*which they have one with another*, &c.
but I list not to strive about this neither.
The third thing is, to enquire wherein the *breach of this union* must consist:
"*In these two things.* 1. *The casting* *pag. 99.*
"*out that Spirit, which gives this union;*
"2. *The losse of Love, flowing from thence*
"*into the body of Christ*, &c: concerning which, he tells his *Adversaries*,
"*That our persuasion is, that this union* *pag. 100.*
"*was never utterly broken by any man;*
"*taken into it, or ever shall be, to the end*
"*of the world.* I shall not differ with him, in this *Assertion*: Onely I take no ice of the *warinesse* of his expression; (*utterly broken*) which in that *debate*, signifies *totally* and *finally*. But if I may *gradually* and for *a time* be *interrupted*, (as our *Divines* allow) may there not be said to be a *breach* in *that union*,

though not *of that union*? And consequentially a *breach* in *this union* by some sin may be called, *Schism*; which he too slightingly disavows. That *Faith* may be weakened, and *Love* remitted, there is no question; and that the Spirit may be *quenched*, and *grieved*, the Scripture insinuates; upon which *offence*, there may be a kind of *Schism*, even in the *Invisible Church*, if not to a *separation* of the Spirit utterly, yet to a *suspension* of its influence, by hiding it selfe, and leaving the *Believer* to a sad *desertion*; as experience tells us. Besides this, the *members* of this Church, being also *visible* in another sense, and so of the *Catholike visible Church*; may there not be a *breach* of *union*, even among them, which may extend, not onely to *divisions* in judgment, but also to *separation* into parties, and what is that but *Schism*? I gave an instance in *Paul* and *Barnabas*, both members of this Church; *Act.* 15. last; and members of no *particular Church*. But strictly to speak, This *Church* it selfe, and its *union* being both *invisible*, *quà elect*, there can be no *visible breach of union* in it, or among the members of it; and so we must look for *Schism*, in the other Notions of the Church. Chap.

CHAP. V.

Of the Church Catholick visible, and its Union.

THe next whereof is, the *Catholick visible Church*, which he describes to be, " The universality of men pro- " fessing the doctrine of the Gospel, and " obedience to God in Christ, through- " out the World. These he grants, do constitute the *visible Kingdom* of Christ, and so may be called his *Church*: but whether *precisely, so called in Scripture*, (he saies) is not *unquestionable*: But to me and others (whom he may do well to satisfie) this is out of *question*. He makes the question to be, " what relati- " on it stands in, to all particular Chur- " ches, whether as a Genus to its Spe- " cies, or as a *Totum* to its parts. And he seems to be Negative in both. His general reason is, because " The universal " visible Church we speak of, is not a " thing that hath, as such, a specificative " form, from which it should be so cal- " led, as a particular hath for its ground " of being so called. That shall be tryed, when we hear what is the *specificative*

§. 1.

p. 112.

p. 113.

form of a *particular* Church. In the mean time, let us consider, why he denies this *Catholick Church*, to stand in relation to the particular Churches, as a *Genus* to its *Species*; "because this would deprive "every one of membership in this uni-"versal Church, which is not joyned "actually to some particular Church, "which is devoid of truth. What force there is in this consequence against them of *New England*, who make particular Churches to be *Species* of the *universal* Church, as (say they) *several drops* of water, are *Species* of water; and also make a man first a *member* of a particular Church, before he can be a *member* of the *Catholick*, I say, what *force* there is, in this consequence against them, I do not see; I only note his *disagreement* with them; though I agree with him in the thing. For the other, That *particular* Churches are *parts* of the *Catholick*, he also denies, because, "this were to "overthrow a remarkable difference, "between the Oeconomy of the old Te-"stament and the New, to parts & mem-"bers of any Catholick Church, as that it "should be constituted or made up of "them, or by them, for the order and "purpose of an instituted Church, for

Mr. Hookers *Survey.*

p. 113.

wor-

worship of God: he means, as the worship of God was National among the Jewes. But (besides what others have said, to prove the *Catholick Church*, to be a *Political* Church, in a candid sense) I would say, the *Ceremonial* worship only (or chiefly) was *National*; the *moral* worship was performed in several *Congregations*, or *Synagogues*, (wherein there were *Rulers* and *ruled*) and yet those might be called *parts* of the *Jewish* Church, as a *Totum*, or whole. And why *particular* Churches may not be called *parts* of the *Catholick* (which is but the *National* Church enlarged) I yet see no reason. That all the *members* of the *Catholick Church* should meet together, to *hear one Sermon*, to *partake* of one *Sacrament*, *&c.* as it was possible once, when their *number* was but an 120. *Acts* 1. so they are *bound* still, but that the *multitude* makes it impossible. That the *particular Congregations* should joyn together, in the same *specifical Ordinances*, and have *Officers* over them *alike*, is certainly an *institution* of Jesus Christ, as well, as to make the same *profession of Faith*, and *hope*. Indeed, that, being so *numerous*, they should have one *Officer* over them all, and joyn to *hear* one *Sermon*,

Mr. Hudson *Vind.*

mon, or receive the *same Sacrament numerical*, (as he speaks) is a *ridiculous* fancy; and not only false, but impossible. But I would gladly know a reason, why 40, or more, members of no particular Church, but only of the Catholick, meeting together, and having a Minister among them, may not joyn together to worship God, in *prayer*, *preaching*, and *partaking* of the *Sacrament*, as well as the *members* of several *particular Churches*, and *himself* among them, may do the same; as they do often at *London* and *Oxford*, when he preaches, unlesse he will count those *Ordinances* then and there administred, no acts of *instituted* worship. And if he grant them to be *worship*, how can he deny that *Assembly*, to be a *particular Church*, though it be not fixed nor gathered and united, by any *explicite Covenant*, or consent to *live* and *dye* together. I shall only note again, that herein he *deserts* his friends in *New England*, who say, "*particular* "*Churches, are parts of the universal as a* "*Totum or Integrum.* And none think otherwise, but they (to use his words) *who have profit by the fable.*

See John 4.22,23.

Ubi supr.

§ 2. p. 114. What then is the *specificative form* of a particular Church? "*The formall reason* "*consti-*

"*constituting a particular Church, is,*
"*their joyning together, in the same numeri-*
"*cal Ordinances for Gods worship.* It is true indeed, the *Catholick Church* as now it is enlarged, hath not the same *specificative form*; For whether it be considered as a *Genus*, or as a *Totum*, it cannot have the *same form*, with the *Species*, or *parts*. But if it have another *specificative form* of its own, it may from that be called an *Universal* Church; as well as a *particular*, from its form, may be called a *particular* Church. Why then is the Catholick called a Church Universal? "*Because all Christians, through the world,*
"*(excepting some individuals providential-*
"*ly excluded) do upon the enjoyment of the*
"*same preaching of the Word, the same Sa-*
"*craments administred in Specie, professe*
"*one common Faith, & Hope.* The sum is the *specificative form* of the *Catholick* visible Church (if it have any) is the *profession* of the *same Faith and Hope* of the Gospel; whether the members enjoy the same Word and Sacraments, administred in Specie or no? And he needed not to have excepted any *individualls providentially* excluded from those Ordinances: for himself tells us an instance of a man, that never was partaker of those

those Ordinances, and "*yet a subject of* "*Christs visible Kingdom a member of this* "*Church in the world*, p. 139. And before that supposes, "*A man may be instructed* "*in the knowledge of the Gospel, by the* "*Scripture it self, and make profession of* "*it, where he lives, though he be a thou-* "*sand miles distant from any particular* "*Church, wherein the Ordinances are ad-* "*ministred, nor perhaps knows there is any* "*such Church in the world*. p. 137. If then a *joyning together* in the same *numerical* Ordinances, be the *specificative form*, of a particular Church, (of which more anone) why may not the *profession of the same Faith*, and hope of the Gospel, be the *specificative form* of the Catholick Church? The truth is, the *Church* considered in the threefold notion, with the threefold *differences*, is not distinguished into *Species*, or hath any such *specificative* forms; but is one and the same *Church*, considered in that threefold *Notion*, as the members may be considered, as 1. *Believers*. 2. As *Professors*. 3. As *Partakers* of the same numericall Ordinances of worship, as is said above, and shall appear more hereafter.

The

The *Union* of this Church comes next to be considered; which, we shall easily grant him, is not first the *same* with that of the *Catholick invisible*, because many are *members* of this, who are not *true* believers. 2. Nor the same with that of a *particular* Church, because many are of the Catholick, who never were of a *particular* Church. 3. Nor yet, hath it its union, by a Relation to any one *Officer*, given to the whole, or a subordination of Officers, as *Papists* pretend: In all these we consent with him; and therefore passe by the large discourse about them, as not concerned in it, It consists saies he, "*In the profession of one Lord, one* "*Faith, one Baptism, Eph.* 4. 5. That all the *members* of the *Catholick Church* are united in this profession, is very true; but this is not all, they are bound to more than this, *viz.* to the *exercise* of the same *specifical* Ordinances, to *subjection* to the same *Discipline*; as also to *Love* to one another; and, where it is possible, to the *celebrating* together, of the same *numerical* worship. And in any of these, to make any *differences*, is a *breach of that union*, that ought to be among the *members* of the *Catholick visible* Church. Whereupon that is a strange assertion, or addition

§ 3. pag. 116. p. 133.

pag. 117. addition of his, "*If there be not an* institution *for joyning in the same* Numerical "*Ordinances, the union of this Church, is* "*not really a Church-union.* For when Christ hath instituted, that every *Church* meeting together, and every *member* of of the *Catholick Church*, should *exercise* the same *specifical* Ordinances, is not this a Church union, or union of Churches? And let it then be considered, That if every *member* of the *Church Catholick*, may be a *member* of any, or every *particular* Church, where *providence* may cast him, (being rightly *qualified* thereunto) having right first to the same *specifical* Ordinances, as a member of the *Catholick*, and then to the same *numerical* Ordinances, where he comes and finds them, (as some of his own way do grant, and cannot well be denyed) then the *denyal* of such a *person* to joyn in those *numerical* Ordinances, is a *breach* of that *union* and *love*, which ought to be, between the members of the *Cath. Church*, which whether it may be called a *Schism* or no, we shall examine hereafter. Sure we are, this is done continually, by some *particular* Churches, and *members* of the same.

The *properties* of that profession, for the

the preservation of this *Union*, he makes to be three; " 1. *That all necessary* p. 134.
" *truths of the Gospel, be believed and pro-*
" *fessed.* 2. *That no other principle of the*
" *mind, inconsistent with the real belief of*
" *those truths professed, be manifested by*
" *the professors; Those that are enemies of*
" *the Crosse of Christ, are not any members*
" *of his Church.* 3. *That no opinion, error*
" *or false doctrine, everting any necessary*
" *truth professed, be added and deliberately*
" *professed also.* To which I have but this to say, 1. The *Apostles* of *Christ* were for a time *ignorant* of many necessary *truths* of the Gospel, and some *professors* there were, that had not *heard* whether there was an *Holy Ghost* or no. *Acts* 19. Yet these were *members* of the *Catholick Church.* 2. Those whom the *Apostle* called *enemies* of the *Crosse* of *Christ*, were *Christians*, and so members at least of the *Catholick Church*, if not of a particular. As the *incestuous* person, was a member of the *Church* of *Corinth*, till he was ejected. And it is a position of his own party, " *A scandalous member tolerated,*
" *is a member to all Ordinances, for him-*
" *self, and his seed*: wherewith how this *Reverend Author* agrees, may be seen, when he saies, " *Mens profession of the* p. 136.

knowledge

" *knowledge of God contradicted by a course* " *of wickedness, is not to be admitted as a* " *thing giving any priviledge whatever.* So that such a man is *ipso facto* unmembred, without excommunication; and if he be a wicked Minister, he is *ipso facto* unministred or degraded, and all his Ministerial acts are *null*: Adde to this what he saies *p.* 159. " *Let those (that are* " *prophane) profess what they will, and cry* " *out a thousand times that they are Christians, I shall never acknowledge them for* " *others, than visible enemies of the crosse of* " *Christ. Traytors and Rebels are not*, de facto, *Subjects of that King, in reference to* " *whom they are so. They are not within* " *the Church, any more than a Jew, or Mahumetan within the same precincts.* There are in a few lines, many mistakes; For 1. Though they be as bad as, or worse than *Mahumetans*, in regard of their spiritual estate, yet are they better in regard of Church estate; Does the wickedness of their lives, make their Baptism a meer nullity? then must they be rebaptized, upon their conversion, as heathens are. 2. If they be no better than Heathens, then are their children to be denyed Baptism, and are very Infidels: yet a child of the prophanest Jew

was

was circumcised, and had right to other priviledges. 3. That is so far from truth, "*That Traytors and Rebels are not* de facto "*Subjects of that King, in reference to* "*whom they are so* that they cannot possibly be *Traytors* and *Rebels* to him, unless they be his Subjects. As he said, "*A man cannot possibly be a Schismatick,* "*unlesse he be a Church-member*; either of a particular, or of the Catholick Church. 4. Doth not the Apostle call fornicators, drunkards, unruly walkers, brethren? 1 *Cor.* 5. 11. 2 *Thes.* 3. 17. But these three *properties*, are insisted on, to insinuate, that if there be no *breach of Union*, in any of these, there is no *Schism* to be found, in the *Catholick Church*, nor between the members thereof: as appears in his application of them.

For granting for *process* sake, "*That* §. 2.
"*Schism is the breach of any union in-* p. 140.
"*stituted by Christ*; *the enquiry is*, *Whe-*
"*ther we be guilty of the breach of such an* "*unity*. And for the first of these, the *profession* of all necessary truths of the Gospel, the *Church* of *England* in her doctrine, is as *Orthodox* as any Church under Heaven, *consonant* to the Scriptures,

and *Apostolicall Church*; (till by *Toleration*, some *false Teachers* have corrupted the *Faith* by damnable *Heresies*, and *blasphemies*, disowned by the Church) The *Schism* then charged upon us by *Papists*, in this respect, "*lies at their own* "*door, who have not only deviated from the* "*common Faith themselves, but cause* "*others also so to do, and attempt to destroy* "*all that will not joyn with them*: Unless we may lay it also upon those *Sectaries*, and *Hereticks* among us, who are their *Disciples*, who agree with them, in many of their *errors*, and are departed from the common Orthodox *Faith*, of the Church of *England*. As for the second; "*That in our lives, we do not manifest a* "*principle, utterly inconsistent with the* "*truths we profess*; As *Rome* hath little reason to charge us with *Schism*, in this respect, whose *lives* generally are as abominable as their *Doctrines*: So I may rather *wish* I could, than professe I *can*, acquit our *Churches* from the charge. It cannot be denyed but the *conversations* of too many *eminent Professors* and Saints, as they would be called, are not such as becomes that truth of *Doctrine*, which we have so long enjoyed. And as for the

See p. 141

See p. 148 §. 9.

the last, "*That we add not unto them, in "opinion or worship, such things as are de-"structive of them, or render them insuf-"ficient to be saving unto us.* For our *worship*, we may I hope, without *offence*, say, that it is in the *publick Congregations*, (whatever it is in private *Conventicles*) according to the *simplicity* of the Gospel, though perhaps, in some circumstances defective, wherein yet we are *endeavouring* a Reformation. Thus far we are §. 7.
cleared, of *breach of Unity*, and so of *Schism*. But I have intimated, and partly proved, there may be a *breach of Union*, with respect to the *Catholick* Church, upon other considerations. As first, there is a *Bond* that obliges every *member* of this Church, to *joyn together* in exercising the same *specifical* Ordinances of worship. When then any man shall refuse to *joyn* with others, or refuse others to *joyn* with him, in these Ordinances; here is a *breach of* Love and Union, among the members of the *Catholick Church*; and in the particular Churches, as *parts* of the Catholick. And what thinks he of those Churches, who deny *Baptism*, to Infants altogether? or those that deny *Baptism* to the chil-

See pag. 205. §. 7.

dren of *godly Parents*, not of their own *confederate* Church? and the *Lords Supper* to the Parents of such Children? The *Anabaptists* do the one, contrary to the practise of the *Universal Church* in all Ages since the *Apostles*; and themselves do the other daily, as is too well known. Is not this a *raising* of differences in the *Universal* Church, a *breach of union*, and so a *Schism*? Yet as he is *earnest* to free himself from *Schism* in his separation; so he seems not to think *Anabaptism* to be a Schism. *p.* 226. " *He that will* " *upon that account, undertake to prove* " *them Schismaticall, may find himself* " *to be entangled.* Of which more hereafter.

§. 8. That this *Catholick Church* is *visible*, he grants, which others of his friends
p. 146. have denyed. That it is an *Organical political* body, in a right sense, is largely
Mr. *Hudf.* and *learnedly* proved by others, (though he denies it) to them I refer it. One thing I cannot but take *notice* of, he sayes, " *It will not suffice to say that* " *Christ is its Head; for if as a visi-* " *ble politicall body, it hath a politicall* " *Head, that Head also must be visible.*

But

But 1. What necessity is there, the Head must be visible? seeing he confesses, the Common-wealth of the Jewes was a *Politicall Body*, and *God* (who is invisible) was their *Political Head.* 2. *Jesus Christ*, the *Head* of the Church, is a *visible Head*, yea sometimes more, *visus*, seen of men, while on earth, though now for a time, in *Majesty* (as some great *Princes* do) he hath *withdrawn* himself from the sight of men on earth, yet is he seen of Angels, and Saints in Heaven. But that, by the by. p. 148.

CHAP. VI.

Independentism is Donatism.

§. 1. WHat he sayes, for many *leaves* together, for vindication of Protestants from the charge of Schism, in their just separation from Rome as the Catholicke Church, I cannot but acknowledge to be rationall, solid, and judicious. Onely I am not satisfied, with his assertion, "*That he not onely* "*denyes the Church of Rome* (*so called*) *to* "*be a particular Church*, *p.* 154. *but* "*also affirmes it*, *to be no Church at all*; "*page* 156. Wherein he hath *deserted* most of our *Divines*; as we shall shew hereafter; our cause being *defensible* without this Plea. But I am farre more *unsatisfied*, that he undertakes the cause of the *Donatists*, and labours to exempt them from *Schism*, though he allows them *guiltie* of other *Crimes*, and Miscarriages. The grounds of this *undertaking*, I suppose to be, 1. His singular *notion* of *Schism*, limiting it onely to differences, in a *particular Assembly*; 2. His *jealousie* of the charge of *Schism*, to be objected to himselfe, and partie, if

if *separating* from the true *Churches* of *Christ*, be truely called *Schism*. For the ventilating whereof, I suppose, we may, without flattery or falshood, grant him his request (in respect to our selves, not to *Rome*) that is "*put the* "*whole Protestant Church of God, into* "*that condition of Libertie, and soundnesse* "*of doctrine; which it was in, when that* "*uprore was made by the Donatists.* Certainely, most of the *Protestant Churches* (our own among them) have as much *Libertie*, are as sound in doctrine and as (if not more) *sincere* and incorrupt in *worship*; than those Churches from which the *Donatists* separated; (they being not onely troubled with *Heresies*, as we all are, but pestered with multitude of *Ceremonies*, from which wee are freed). And now we shall take his thoughts of the *Donatists Schism*, into consideration. The objection raised by himselfe, is this. "*Doth not* Austine "*and the rest of his contemporaries, charge* "*the Donatists with Schism, because they* "*departed from the Catholicke Church?* "*and doth not the charge rise up with e-* "*quall efficacie against you as them? At* "*least, doth it not give you the nature of* "*Schism, in another sense, than is by you*

p. 163.

p. 162.

"*granted*? This objection concernes not us, the generality of *Protestants*, who grant that sense of Schism, "*that* "*it is a breach of union, or a causelesse se-* "*paration from the true Churches of* "*Christ*: but it lyes in full *force* against him and his partie, who have broken the *union* of our Churches, and *separated* themselvs from all the *Protestant* Churches in the world, not of their own *constitution*, and that as no true *Churches* of Christ, for lack (as they say) of a *right constitution*. We know indeed where and by whom, *this Cloud is scattered*, without the least *annoyance* to the *Protestant* cause, as formerly stated, even as himselfe hath stated it, and produced the answers of our *learned Divines*, *p.* 190. §. 47. *&c*, which he highly approves, *p.* 192. though he rest not in it, but rather *cleaves* to his own way; as we shalll see erre long.

p. 194. That his *designe* is, to *vindicate* himselfe and his partie, as well as the *Donatists*, from charge of *Schism*, is evident by what he sayes, "*I shall cleerly deli-* "*ver my thoughts concerning the Dona-* "*tists, which will be comprehensive also of* "*those other, that suffer with them, in*

former

"*former*, *and after ages*, *under the same imputation.* It will therefore be necessary, or very *expedient*, to consider, how neer their *case* comes to be *parallell*; with that of the *Donatists*, both for *matter*,, and *manner*, of mannaging it; and then, how he will free them and himselfe from *Schism.* For the first; The *Donatists* having raised *causlesse differences* in the Church, about *Cecilianus* being ordained by the *Traditores*, (which, whether it were true or false, was no just *ground* of *casting* him out of *Communion*, "§. 17) *made that the ground of their separation*; *how ever they took in other things* "(*as is usual*) *into their defence afterwards* "§. 16. The *principles* they first fell upon, were those two, long since named. "1. *That they were the onely Church of* "*Christ*, *in a corner of Africa.* 2. *That* "*none were truely baptised*, *or entered* "*members of the Church of Christ*, *but by* "*some of their partie.* That the *Stage* is changed, from *Africa*, into *America*, is evident; but that these were the *principles* of the *Brownists*, and are now of all *Independents*, (for all Sects are *Independents*) I need not exemplifie, by drawing up the *parallel*; he that *runnes* may read it, in their books and practice. I wonder

not,

not; that the Doctor hath unchurched *Rome*; for he hath done as much to *England*, and all forraine *Protestant* Churches; and makes none to be *members* of the Church, but such as are by *covenant* and consent, joyned to some of their *Congregations*.

§ 3. Secondly, for the *manner* of mannagement of their way, the parallel runnes but too *smooth* and even. 1. He sayes of the Donatists; "*That upon* "*supposition they had just cause to re-* "*nounce the Communion of Cecilianus, yet* "*they had no ground of separating from* p. 165. "*the Church of Carthage, where were ma-* "*ny Elders, not obnoxious to that charge*: The parallel comes home to him thus. "*Upon supposition, or grant, that the* "*Church of England, and himselfe, had* "*just cause to renounce the Pope, and* "*Church of Rome; yet had he and his par-* "*tie, no ground to separate from the* "*Church of England, where there were* "*many Elders, and people, not obnoxious,* "*to that charge of Apostacie, upon the* "*Church of Rome*, 2. *Leaving the in-* "stance *given, to avoid prolixitie; I shall* "*onely apply, what he sayes of the* Dona- "tists; *Though men of tender consciences* "*might be startled at the Communion with*

"*our*

"our late Hierarchicall Church, yet no-
"thing but the height of pride, madnesse,
"and corrupt fleshly interest, could make
"men declare hostilitie against all the
"Protestant Churches of Christ, in the
"world; which was to regulate all the
"Churches in the world, by their owr fan-
"cie and imagination. 3. This line is
also parallel. "Though men of such pride
"and folly, might judge all the residue of
"Christians, to be faultie and guiltie in not
"separating from our Churches, yet to
"proceed to cast them out, from the very
"name of Church members, and so disan-
"null their priviledges, and ordinances,
"they had been partakers of, (as mani-
"festly some doe, by rebaptizing all that
"enter into their communion; and others
"by denying both Sacraments, to some;
"baptism to Children of parents, and Lords
"Supper to parents themselves, not in their
"Church way) is such unparalell'd pha-
"risaism, and tyrannie, as is wholly to be
"condemned, and intolerable. 4. Once
more, and I have done; the consequences
that befell the Donatist's separation,
are too much parallel. "The divisions,
"outrages, and enthusiasticall furies, (in
"the Levellers and such like) and riots (in
"the Ranters and Quakers) that have be-
"fallen

Mr. Baxt. Mr. Firm. Sep. exami. Mr. Raie. Gem. pleb. pag. 19.

"*fallen some of them, or they fell into, (beginning at Independentism) were and are, in many pious and wisemens judgment, tokens of the hand of God against them, to witnesse that their undertaking and enterprize, was utterly undue, and unlawfull.* I wish they may *patiently* consider all this.

§. 4. Thirdly we expected to heare, how he would free them, and himselfe (so neere agreeing with them), from the charge of *Schism*, in their *separation* from the true *Churches* of Christ. Hee cannot but acknowledg them to be *faultie*, many wayes, but not guiltie of *Schism*; If he would acknowledge as much of his own way; I should use his own words, "*Let the breach of union (in the Churches) be accounted (if you please) Schism, or a crime; for being an evill, I shall not contend by what name or title it be distinguished*, p. 81. But he waves the question, whether that *separation* of the *Donatists*, from all other Churches, might be called a Schism, and takes it for granted, they and himselfe, are free from that charge; for so p. 167. he sayes. "*How little we are, at this day, in any contests that are mannaged amongst*

"*mongst us, concerned in those differences*
"*of theirs, those few considerations afore,*
"*will evince.* Its true indeed, in our *Separation* from *Rome*,, the instance of the *Donatists*, is very impertinent: as in other respects, so in this, that they *separated* from the truely *Catholick* Church, we from the *Idolatrous*, corrupt, particular Church of *Rome*, falsely called *Catholicke*. But it concernes him and his partie neerely, in respect of their *separation* from all true Protestant *Churches*, agreeing (as they doe) in the *principles* and *practices* of the *Donatists*. The question then is *unresolved*, whether their and his *separation* may justly be called *Schism*. All he sayes is this?
"*We are thus come off from this part of our*
"*charge of Schism, for the relinquishment*
"*of the Catholike Church; which as we* p. 168.
"*have not done, so to do; is not Schism,*
"*but a sinne of another nature and impor-*
"*tance.* The ground he goes upon, why *separation* from a true Church, is no *Schism*, is that afore: "*That Schism,*
"*in the Scripture notion, is onely a division*
"*of judgment, in a particular Assembly*, not a separation from any Church: which if it were true, (as it is proved false above) as it would free *Protestants* from

from that charge by *Papists*, with ease; so it will acquit himselfe, and all *Sectaries* in the world, from the crime of *Schism*; That the *principle*, and principall plea of *Romanists*; "*that they are* "*the Catholick Church*, *out of whose com-* "*munion there is no salvation*, (*as the* "*Donatists was of old*, was and is Schismaticall) was and is the common vote of almost all *Ancient* and *moderne* Divines. And if it be true, which his *partie* assent to, that their *Churches* are onely rightly *constituted*; and other *Churches* and *Ministers* are false, or none; (as they do also *assert*) they are equally guiltie of that *Schismaticall* principle, "*That* "*they are the only* (*not Catholick*) *parti-* "*cular Churches*, *out of whose Communi-* "*on*; *there is* (*ordinarily*) *no Salvation*. This very *principle*, in the *Donatists* first, and then in the *Romanists*, hath been the ground of all those sad *differences* among the *Churches* along time, and of the *troubles* that have issued thence (and to make *differences* in a Church, and troubles & thereupon to *separate*, is acknowledged, or proved to be *Schism*); then the *raising* of the like differences, and *persisting* to maintaine them, upon the very same *principle*; (as the onely *true*

Churches

Churches) how it can be exempted from *Schism*, I am to learn.

That I was not mistaken, in the ground he goes upon, to free the *Donatists* of old, and *Protestants*, together with himselfe, from the charge of Schism, was, his own *notion* and definition of *Schism*; will now appeare, in his own answer to the *Romanists* argument; which he rather insists upon, than upon the *solutions* of our learned *Divines page* 192. "*He takes Schism in* "*the notion and sense of the Scripture precisely*, that is, for *divisions* onely in a *particular* Church; And thereupon denyes, 1. that there can be any *separation* from the *Catholike invisible* Church; or, if there could, it would be madnesse to call it *Schism*, 2. nor from the *Catholike visible*, because the *forsaking* its *Communion*, which consists in *profession* of the same Faith, is not *Schism*, but *Apostacie*, 3. nor from a particular Church; for that is not properly *Schism*; for so he sayes, 4. "*I deny that separation* "*from a particular Church, as such, as* "*meerly seperation, is Schism, or ought to* "*be so esteemed, though perhaps such sepe-* "*ration may proceed from Schism, and at-*

§. 5.

pag. 193.

tended

"*tended with other evils*: But this "mistakes the question; for the *Romanists* themselves do not mean, that every *separation* from any *Church*, is *Schism*, as such; but a *causelesse separation* from the true *Catholike Church*: which they suppose themselves to bee. And so some, and most of ours do state it, as he observes, *page* 191. *s.* 48. and so they fall upon the *Idolatry*, *Heresie*, &c: of the *Church* of *Rome*, as just causes of separation from her "*which plea (sayes he)* "*will not be shaken to eternitie.* 2. Hee affirmes "*that separation however, upon*
p. 194. "*just cause, from any Church, is no Schism.* This, (as it is the same with the former, in sense, so) is by none denyed; "*This* "*is granted by all persons; Schism is causelesse, say all men however concerned: separation upon a just cause, is a dutie*; and therefore cannot be *Schism*, which is alwayes a sinne. Hence it appeares, that hee needlessely denyes their *Major* proposition, being rightly understood, in *their sense*, who propounded it. And our *Divines* did better to deny the *Minor*: We have neither *voluntarily*, nor *causelessely* separated from the Church of *Rome*. But his answer, is another thing.
"*Separation in the sense contended about*,
p. 194. "*must*

"*must be from some state and condition of* pag. 195
"*Christs institution, a Church of his ap-*
"*pointment, otherwise it will not be plead-*
"*ed that it is Schism, at least not in a Gos-*
"*pel sense.* The Summe is this, "*Schism*
"*is a separation from a Church of Christs*
"*institution; but our separation from*
"*Rome, is not from a Church of Christs in-*
"*stitution: therefore it is no Schism:*
And though it be true, that the nationall, *Hierarchicall* Church of Rome, the *papall*, and *patriarchall* Church, be not a Church of *Christs institution*, yet the *bottome* of his argument lyes here, That *Schism* in the Scripture notion, is onely found, in a *particular* Church: which must serve him for more uses than one, as we shall heare anon. And thence he inferres, that *separation* either of one *Church* from another, or of persons from a Church, upon any occasion, *true* or *false*, what ever it be, it is no *Schism*: which is spoken to, above, and will come againe.

But that there may be *Schism*, besides that in a particular Church, I prove by a double argument, *ex confessis*. §. 6.
"1. Schism *is a breach of union*; *But*
"*there may be a breach of union in the Ca-*

"*tholick visible Church*; 2. *Where there* "*are differences raised in matter of Faith,* "*professed*, (*wherein the union of the Ca-* "*tholick Church consists*) *there may be a* "*breach of union*, *but there may be diffe-* "*rences in the Catholick*, *or among the* "*members of the Catholick Church*, *in* "*matters of Faith professed*, ergo: I suppose his answer will be; "*That the forsaking* "*of its communion*, *which consists in the* "*profession of faith*, *is not Schism but A-* "*postacie*, *p.* 193. *s.* 52. But that is not alwayes so; for both there may be *differences* in the faith, and yet no *Apostacie*; or if *there* be *Apostacie*, it may be a *Schism*, also: *Apostates* commonly make *differences* amongst *professors*, before they totally depart. He must be remembred of what he said, *p.* 161. §. 12. "*The breach of this union* "(*in the Catholick Church*) *and therein* "*the relinquishment of*, *the commu-* "*nion of the Church*, *lies in re-* "*linquishment of*, *or some opposition to*, "*some or all of the saving necessary truths* "*of the Gospel. Now this is not Schism*, "*but Heresie or Apostacie*: That must be thus: If it be the relinquishment of *all truths* of the Gospell, it is *Apostacie*. If of some onely (and they *fundatally* maintained with *obstinacie*) its *He-*

rese: but if it be of *some truths* onely, (of lesser or greater *concernment*) about which, *differences* are by some raised, amongst the members of this *Church Catholick*, it may, by his own principles, be called *Schism*. His *evasions*, will be one of these two, 1. That he did condiscend, to gratifie his *Adversaries*, that *Schism*, is a *breach of union*, but that he denyes to be the Scripture *notion* of *Schism*; 2. That upon the same account, he denyes *differences* to be *Schism* any where, but in a *particular* Assembly. Wherein he is *singular* and alone: and is sufficiently disproved above.

But *fearing*, belike, that in his *so answering*, some of ours, would be readie to take up those words spoken to our Saviour, upon another occasion, "*Master, in so saying thou puttest us to rebuke also*;". He starts an objection, from the consequence of it utterly *unchurching Rome*, thus "*Whether the devesting of the Synagogue of Rome, of the priviledges of a Church, in any sense, arise not to the denyall of that Ministry, at this day in England.* To which, before we take his answer, I would say, 1. That most of our *pious* learned *Divines*, have hitherto not denyed, but that *Rome* was a Church, in some sense; not a *true*, but

§. 7.

pag. 198.

a corrupt Church, as having some *priviledges*, or rather some *remainders* of a Church; as the same *Articles* of Faith, *baptism*, and a kind of *Ministry*, &c. 2. That hereupon they have defended our *Ministry* to be true, though sometimes, coming thorough their *foule* hands, with many *superadditions* to the *institution* of Christ. Others perhaps would say, we had it not from *Rome*; there were other *Bishops* in *England*, before *Austin* came hither, from whom we might receive our *Ordination* successively. But heare his kind answer. "*If* "*any man hath nothing to plead for his* "*Ministry, but meerely that successive* "*Ordination, which he hath received* "*through the Church of Rome; I* "*cannot see a stable bottome of owning* "*him so to be.* But (not yet to regest to him, his *successive Baptism*, which he received through the Church of *Rome*) this would go neere to *annull* the *Ministry*, of those *Martyr-Bishops*, and *Ministers*, our first *Reformers*, who at first, had nothing to plead, but their *successive ordination*, from *Rome*, and *acted* upon it accordingly; He cannot gratifie *Rome* better, than to *aspersé* the *Ministry* of *England*; it is the *Jesuiticall* business, in all the present *Sectaries*, They look

See D. Hall *Apol. against Brownists Sect.* 23.

upon himself,& his partie,(who have either *none*, or have *renounced* their *ordination*)as *no Ministers* at all: If we be *none* also, then have wee (as they *slander* us) no *Church* at all. God help the poore *despised Ministers* of England. The *Romanists* say,we are no *Ministers*, because we have not our *Ordination* from *Rome*, The *Sectarists* say, we are no *Ministers*, because we have our *Ordination* from *Rome*, which shall wee believe? Neither,for we have it from *Jesus Christ*, by whose hands soever we had it. But,as a little *blushing* at this hard saying, he will *mollifie* it a little. "*I do not say,if he will* "*plead nothing else, but if he hath nothing* "*else to plead. He may have that which* "*will constitute him a Minister, though he will not own, that so it doth.* What ever else we plead, unlesse we will *renounce* our *Ordination*, it will not please them. That by *Bishops*, is by them pleaded *null*, or *Antichristian*; and that by the *people*, (which he intends), we think is *nothing*, and cannot own it, as a ground of our *Ministry*, though perhaps, we have their *call*, as well as himselfe. We may have (as many of us have) our *call*, and *election* to be *their Ministers*, from the people; but our *Ordination* we shall justifie

p. 196.

p. 197. to be from *Christ*, and not from the people. But hear more, "*Nor is it said*, "*that any have their Ministry from Rome* "*as though the office which is an Ordi-* "*nance of Christ, was instituted by Anti-* "*christ; but the question is, whether this* "*be a sufficient foundation of any mans in-* "*interest, in the office of the Ministry,* "*that he hath received Ordination, in a* "*succession, through the Administration* "*of, not the woman flying into the Wilder-* "*nesse, not of the two witnesses, not from* "*them, whom we succeed in Doctrine, as* "*the Waldenses, but the Beast it selfe.* Does he not by this, cast *dirt* in the face of our *Ministry*, as all our good friends, the *Sectaries*, doe? I have much adoe to forbeare, saying; ("The Lord rebuke thee). But I answer; 1. Why may it not be as sufficient a *foundation* of our *Ministry*, as for our *Baptism*, which was never questioned hitherto, but by our late *Independent Anabaptists*, upon another ground. 2. Had we received our *Ordination*, from the *woman* flying into the Wildernesse, or from the two *witnesses*, or the *Waldenses*, all had been one to him and his partie. For they had not their *Ordination* from the *people*, (except some extraordinary cases) but from a *presbytery*, according to the *Insti-*

Either he must go forward to Anabaptism, (as many have done) or come back to us; as was said to the Brownists, by Dr. Hall Apol. Sect. 11.

tution

Institution of Christ. And yet, forsooth, "*he will not plead this at large, "professedly disclaiming all thoughts of "rejecting those Ministers as Antichristi-"an, who yet adhere to this Ordination, "being many of them eminently guifted of "God, and submitted to by his people,* &c. *Egregiam verò laudem!* While he secretly *derives their pedigree* from *Rome and Antichrist*, the Beast, *&c*: that yet *adhere* to that *Ordination*, if they have nothing else to plead. As for their *eminent guifts*, as they do not plead that as sufficient for their *interests* in the office, without *Ordination*, so many of his and our brethren have those guifts, whom we judge not therefore to be *Ministers*, though *he* do. And as for the *submission* of the people to us, we had that ever, if not *explicitely*, (as often) yet implicitely, (which some *Independents* allow as sufficient to make us true *Ministers*, and true Churches) though we do not own *Ordination*, as from that *submission* of our people, but from *Jesus Christ*. Even from such also they separate.

But some aske; "*Why not Ordination* §. 8.
"*from* Rome, *as well as the Scripture?* p. 198.
which question I like not; but should

rather after, (why not ordination, as well as baptism). All our fore Fathers doubtlesse received their *baptism* by the hands of *Romanists*, and never scrupled it, to be *rebaptized*: why not *Ordination* also, without a new Ordination? They received not *baptism* from them, as if *instituted* by *Antichrist*, but as an *Ordinance* of Christ; They baptized, not as *Antichristian*, not as *Bishops*, or *Romish Priests*, but as *Presbyters*, in whose hands (we say) *Ordination* also is. Onely since, we have taken away those humane *Additions*, which they had sinfully introduced into the *Ordinances* of Christ. The *Scriptures* are not the Inheritance of *Rome*, but Priviledges for all the people of God, where ever they find them; and therefore we deny we received them from *Rome*; any more than the *Jews* received the Golden *vessells* from *Babylon*, because they were sent by the hands of *Cyrus*. Its false then,
p. 199. "*that Ordination is pleaded from the Au-*
"*thority of the Church of Rome, as such.*
Nor doth the granting *true Ordination* (as also true *baptism*) to the Church of *Rome*, prove that it is a *true Church*. This he sayes, "*he understands not*;
"*They who ordained, had no power so to*
"*do*

"*do, but as they were officers of that* "*Church; as such they did it; and if o-* "*thers had ordained, who were not offi-* "*cers of that Church, all will confesse,* "*that action to be null.* Do but change the *scene* to *baptism*; and heare what he will say. They who *baptized* had no *power* to to do, but as *officers* of that *Church*, as such, they did it: both which must be *denyed*, or he must deny his *baptism*; They did it as *Officers*, not as *Officers* of that *Church*, that *Papall Antichristian Hierarchy*; And if others had baptised (*ordained*) who were not *Officers* of that Church, or they, as *Officers* but not as *Officers* of that *Church*, (which is as a *scab* upon the hand) no rationall man hitherto hath asserted that action to be null. This is "*no such* dark passage, *that the* "*Doctour cannot see one step before him*, unlesse his new *light* hath dazled his eyes, that he cannot see *Wood for Trees*, which before he fell into this way, he saw so many *learned* and *pious* men walk in, before him. For our parts, we professe, that in his way "*of personall qua-* "*lifications, and acceptation of the people*, to make a man, without *Ordination*, a *Minister*, the passages in *Scripture* or

See Apol. against Brown. Sect. 27.

See p. 199 But they who will not be content-ed, &c.

Church.

Church stories, are so darke, that wee cannot see one step before us. But this hath sufficiently by others been discussed.

CHAP. VII.

Of the particular Church, and its Union.

§. 1. WE are now come to the last *Acception* of a Church, as it
p. 202. frequently signifies a *particular Church*; though all the places produced by the Doctor, do not (I think) prove that sense; But I shall not contend about it. That the *Church* of *Hierusalem*, was called *one Church*, is true, but that those many thousands could meet in one Congregation, in one place; is nothing probable, it possible: But take his *definition* of a particular *instituted* Church. "*It is a Societie of men called by the word,* "*to the obedience of the Faith in Christ,* "*and joynt performance of the worship of* "*God in the same Individuall Ordiances;* "*according to the order by Christ prescri-* "*bed.*

"*bed.* In this definition, there are some things to be considered.

1. The definition of a *particular* Church, by him given, will be applicable, and is by himselfe or others of his side applyed to the three *severall* notions of a *Church*; or the Church in those several *notions.* 1. To the *Catholick invisible Church*, "*It is a Societie of men called out of* "*the World, by the Word to the obedience of* "*the faith in Christ and joynt performance* "*of the worship of God in the same Individua* "*all Ordinances, according to the order by* "*Christ prescribed.* This is all of it, true of the *invisible Church* they are called (which will be the onely exception) to the *joynt performance* of the worship of God, in the same (specificall, and, where its possible) individuall Ordinances. And all the *members* thereof (*ordinarily*) being of *some particular* Church, its both *possible* and necessary, to joyne in that performance. 2. The same may be said of the *Catholick visible Church*; "*It is a Societie of men, called* "*out of the World by the Word*, &c: So himselfe describes it, "*It is a collection* "*of all that are duely called Christians, in* "*respect of their profession*; p. 113. and before

D. Ames *The Church (in generall) is a Societie of men called out of the world. p. 64 f. 2.*

before that, p. 112. "*All Professors of* "*the Gospell, throughout the World, called* "*to the knowledge of Christ, by the Word,* "*do make up, and constitute his visible* "*Kingdome, by their professed subjection* "*to him*: which *subjection* hath reference to the commands of *Christ*, to worship him; in the same *specificall Ordinances*, indefinitely, and in the same *Individuall*s; where they are administred. And the members of this *Church*, living (ordinarily) in some *particular* Church, its *possible* and necessary for them also, to joyne in that performance. And this is as much as the *members* of a *particular* Church, are bound to; no man being bound to what is to him *impossible*; and it often happening, by *absence*, *sicknesse*, or otherwise, that it is not possible for them to *joyne* in that worship. 3. That it is the *definition* of a *particular* Church, we also grant, as understood afore: 4. But we shall adde, by way of *improvement*, that such societies, are all our particular Congregations: "*Societies of men*, "*called out of the world, by the word*, &c: holding *parallel* in every particular, with his definition: and why we should not be *esteemed* and called *Churches*, as well as theirs, I am to learne the reason.

What

What exception may be made, we shall heare anone.

2. The *Order* prescribed by *Christ*, is not that all *Christians* must be of the same *Individuall* particular congregation, but of this or that, as is most *convenient* for them, by their habitations. Supposing severall *meetings* or Congregations in *Jerusalem*, one of *Paul*, another of *Apollo*, *&c*: no man was obliged by any *order* from Christ, to be of *Pauls* Congregation, or of another, so he joyned himselfe to one, for the *participation* of the same Ordinances. And when a *Christian* did joyne himselfe to this or that Congregation, he did not *explicitely* enter into a Covenant, to live and dye in this Congregation, but thought himselfe bound to be of one, by the *obligation* of his membership in the *Catholike Church*; with a *libertie* reserved, to remove to another, if he saw just reason; as our *Authour* will confesse anone. Whence it is evident, that from the beginning of *Christianity*, there was no such *explicite covenanting*, or (as some speake) *marrying* of the *Minister* and people, or of people one to another, that they might not depart *without leave*; but as

§. 2.

Every belie-er is obliged to joyne himselfe to some one of those Churches, that therein he may abide in doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread, and prayer. p. 206.

as they had a *libertie* at first, to settle in such a *congregation*; so also to remove their *habitations*, and to settle in another: not to goe many miles to partake of the Ordinances, which seemes *unsuitable* to the first *plantation* of Churches, and the *mutuall duties* of people of one congregation: But of that elsewhere. And though the *Reverend Ministers* of *London* doe *grant*, "*That in* "*the beginning of* Christianitie, *the number of believers were so few in great Cities, as that they might all meet in one* "*place*, yet they did not *imagine*, that when they at *Jerusalem*, were multiplyed into many *thousands*, or *myriads*, they could so do. And if they met in *severall places*; (as they must) they had also severall *Elders*, to administer the Ordinances to them, and yet are called *singularly*, one Church. Adde to this that at *Ephesus* (*Act.* 20. 17 a place brought to prove, there was but one *particular* Church there) the text sayes expressely, there were (*many*) Elders there. "*He* "*sent to* Ephesus, *for the Elders of the* "*Church*, which evidences cleerely, that there were more Congregations then one, in *Ephesus*: for how could many *Elders*, officiate in one Congregation?

pag. 203.

v. 25. *you all.*

tion. This alone, (if nothing else could be said) affords more, for a *Presbyteriall Church*, than all the *New Testament* does for an *Independent* Church, gathered, I know not how, out of many Churches. But he waves the dispute of this, page 204. And so do I.

To the consideration of the *unitie* of this Church, and the *breach* of it, hee premises some things: "1. *A man may* "*be a member of the Catholick invisible* "*Church.* 2. *Of the Catholick visible* "*Church, and yet by some providentiall* "*hinderance, he never joyned to a particu-* "*lar Church*, which I grant as true, but onely note two things to be satisfied in; 1. How he can *reconcile* this, with what he said afore, *p.* 133. *Sect.* 26. "*The* "*members of the Catholick visible Church,* "*are initiated into that professsion of faith,* "*by baptism.* But *Baptism* (according to his principles) is an *Ordinance* of worship, onely to be enjoyed in a *particular* Church; unlesse he will grant (what yet he does deny, but will be forced to grant) that a *Minister* is a *Minister* to more than his own Church, even to the *Catholike* Church; and may administer baptism out of a particular Church, as

§. 3. p. 205.

Philip

Philip did to the *Eunuch*, and *Paul* to the *Jaylor*; or else deny *Baptism* to be a part of *instituted* worship; let him take his choice. 2. I note also, how he is at distance, with some of his friends, in *New England*, who assert, "*That no* "*man can be a member of the Catholike* "*Church, but he must first be a member of* "*a particular.* But 3. he grants: "*Every beleiver is obliged to joyne himself* "*to some one of those Churches, that there* "*he may abide, in doctrine, and fellowship,* "*and breaking of bread and prayer, &c:* "*if he have opportunitie.* This he *willingly* grants, and I as willingly *accept*, for an use I shall make of it anone, but I like not so well his reasons. 1. "*There* "*are some duties with cannot possibly be* "*performed, but on a supposition, of this* "*duti e previously required, Math.* 18. 15. "*&c:* If he had said, those duties cannot *so well* be performed, its true; but some of them are due to others, beside our own Congregation: But I shall make this advantage of it; That if they cannot *possibly* otherwise be performed, then some of their *Church-members*, are ill gathered, living many *miles* asunder. *Cohabitation* in Townes and Parishes, seemes a necessary *requisite*, to Church-member-

Mr. Hooker's *survey See, my Review page* 119.

p. 206

membership. 2. "*There are some Ordi-*
"*nances of Christ, which they can never*
"*be made partakers of, not related to some*
"*such Society; as Admonition, partici-*
pation of the Lords Supper, &c. As for *Admonition*, it is a duty that concerns every man, to any man, though not of his *particular* Church, though *specially* to them of their own society; And as for partaking of the *Lords Supper*, why may he not enjoy it in *another* Church, as well as *Baptism*; which he allowed before, to one of the *Catholick Church*? If *Christians*, professing the same *Faith*, were looked on as *Brethren*, and as having thereby *right* to the Ordinances of Christ, in any *Church* where they come; they might be *partakers* of Ordinances though not particularly *joyned* to a particular Church. But this ingrossing the *common Ordinances*, to a few *confederate* persons, and making the rest little better than *Heathens*, as to their *Communion*, violates the *Order* of the Gospel, and the Rule of *charity*, and may justly be called Schism.

His third reason, I like yet worse, § 4.
"*That Christ hath given no direction for*
"*any duty of worship, meerely and purely of*
"*soveraign institution, but only to them,*

"*and by them, who are so joyned.* But then I would ask, 1. Whether *Philip* Baptizing the *Eunuch*, in the way, had *Christs* direction for it, or no? or, is *Baptism* no part of worship? 2. *Prayer*, and *reading* of the Word in private families, are they no duties of worship? 3. *Preaching* to convert Heathens, (and then to *baptize* them) is it not a *duty* of *worship* belonging to a *Minister? Rom.* 10. 14. 4 Let me be so bold, as to ask once more; By what *Authority* doth he himself *preach* and *pray* to and with the *Parliament*, or at St. *Maries* in *Oxford*, with a mixt *unjoyned* congregation, *&c?* Or are not these here and at that time, *parts* of worship of Christs Institution? I hope he will not say so. 4. For his fourth reason he gives this, "*The Apostles in planting of Churches, took care to leave none whom they converted, out of that Order, where it was possible, &c.* But this is evidently false in the case of the *Eunuch*, the Deputy, *Acts* 13. *&c.* Unless where there were *none* converted to make a Church. But he laying so much *stress* upon a *particular* Church, and the necessity of joyning with it, it seems *reasonable*, there should be some *directions* to enjoyn every single *convert* (*impossibilities* only excepted)

ted) leaving all *inconveniences* at least, to joyn himself to some *particular* Church, rather than not to *partake of the Ordinances all his dnies*, as he said afore. For the 5. "*Christs institution of Officers* "*for them, &c.* that is, for particular Churches onely, if it speak reason, is as weak as the rest; For its evident, 1. That Christ instituted *Officers* at first, for the *whole Church*, as the Apostles, &c. *Eph.* 4. 11. 2 All those *Officers* ordinary, as *Pastors* or *Teachers*, are set in the *Catholick Church*, and every *Minister* is first a *Minister* to the *Catholick Church*; if he deny this, he knows where to find a *learned Antagonist*. The last reason (as all the rest) is *fallacious*, or inconsequent, Christ took care for particular Churches, therefore the *Ordinances*, are no where to be had by any man, but in his own *particular* Congregation.

That there is an *instituted worship* of God, to be *continued* under the New Testament, to which *humane prudence* may add nothing, is a certain truth, denyed by none, but *fanatical* spirits. And as for the *institution* of *particular* Churches, by express words of *Scripture*, it is no where visible, but by a fair and necessary *consequence*; That which is of *Institution* §. 6. p. 207.

tution was, that Gods people should *serve* and *worship* him *severally* and *joyntly*, in such and such Ordinances of *worship*; and consequently by a *necessity* of nature, there must be a *place* for people to meet together in, or *more*, as their number is; God institutes *publick prayer*, *preaching*, *Sacraments*, therefore there must be *societies*, to perform this *worship*. 1. Because of the multitude of *Christians*, which can neither *meet* all in one place, nor *exercise* those *acts* of worship in too great a company. 2. For the better *obligation* of all professors, as, to the *exercise* of all acts of *publick worship*, (which some, if left *free* to joyn with all, or any, would utterly neglect); so, of all those *private duties*, required of *fellow members*, which cannot well be performed (as was said) by *persons* not conbined. But the *circumstances* of those societies, *how many*, *how great*, what *persons* shall associate, is left to *humane prudence*, with an eye to the general *Rules* of Scripture, that all be done *decently*, in *order*, and to *edification*. And that those that are so joyned, are so *confined*, that they cannot, or may not worship God in the same *Ordinances*, occasionally in other *Churches*, let him that can, shew the *Institution*; for I know

none

none: yet this is the chief piece of *Independency*; never yet undertaken to be proved by any of that party. Our *Author* grants, that a man is at *Liberty* to settle in what Congregation he pleases, and remove at pleasure; And the *light* of common prudence, (upon supposition that there must be such *societies*) seems to to dictate, that when all of a *Nation* are Christians, there should be a distinction o *Churches*, or, as we call them *Parishes*, made by the *bounds* of mens habitations; so that the *divisions* be discreetly made, that the Congregations be neither *too big*, nor too litle, and that the parties of each *Society*, may dwell so near together, that they may be fitter to perform the *services* of God in publick, *decently* and in *order*, to *edification*; and also those *mutual* private *duties*, of brotherly *inspection*, *Admonition*, *&c.* required by Christ, *Matth.* 18. 15. 1 *Thessal.* 5. 14. *&c.*

And this, he in a manner confesses, § 7.
" *That there is in the Institutions of* p. 209.
" *Christ, much that answers a natural*
" *principle in men, who are fitted for socie-*
" *ty; A confederation and consultation, to*
" *carry on any design of common concern-*
" *ment, &c.* I suppose he may intend

this, of *Synods*, carryed on by *Delegates* from several Churches; which is suitable to that *prudence* we see in *States*, assembling in *Parliament &c.* But I shall improve this further. As the *light* of nature taught men to *unite* themselves, in *Towns* and *Cities*, for their better *security*, and mutual *assistance*, and *comfort*: So the same prudence taught the *Ancients*, to distinguish *Cities* into *Parishes*, for their better *Assembling* (some else would be of *no Church*, as pretending to be of all, or any, as we see at this day) for *carrying* on the services of God, in a better, and more profitable *Order*; and for those private *duties* afore spoken of. Nor does any man rationally hence conclude, "*That there is no more but this, in* "*this* Church constitution, *that men* "*may be cast into any prudential form, &c.* For the *way* of worship, is peculiarly *instituted*: but the way of *constituting* particular Chnrches, for *persons*, for *number*, &c. needs no *institution*, but is left to the *prudence* of men, or Churches, as afore.

§. 8. p. 211. "*Whether by any promise of Christ, there* "*shall be alwaies somewhere a visible Church* "*visibly celebrating his Ordinances*, he told us above, was a *needless enquiry*, p. 85.

yet

yet both there, and here enclines to the *Negative*, that all such *Church state* may cease, for some time, and hereafter talks of "*an intercision of all Ordinances, so far* "*as to make a nullitie in them, as to what* "*was of simple and pure institution*, p.271. In this place, he glosses some Scriptures, (alledged of others, as meant of the *Catholick visible* Church) to be understood of the *spiritual Reign* of Christ, in true believers. *Luke* 1. 33. *Math.* 16. 18. Of the sense of which place, I shall not now *contest* with him; For the thing it self, something shall be said, in answering those *questions* which here he propounds. 1. "*It is said, true Churches,* "*were at first planted in England, how then* "*did they cease to be? How, or by what* "*Act did God unchurch them? They did* "*it themselves meritoriously, by Apostacy* "*and Idolatry, God legally by his Institution* "*on of a Law of rejection of such Churches.* But first if *Idolatry* and grievous *Apostacy* will merit an actual *unchurching*, not only the *Israelites*, but they of *Judah* had deserved it long before they were *unchurched*. And if *Apostacy* in a great measure will *unchurch* a people, *England* hath of late years *Apostatiz'd* sufficiently from our *Ancient* truths. 2. Where

hath God instituted such a *Law*, to reject a *Church*, presently, so soon as it proves *Idolatrous* or *Apostatical*? *Rome* had not then been standing at this day. 3. It is a question, whether God ever *absolutely*, unchurches a people, till he utterly destroys them: as he did the *Israelites* of old, and the whole *Jewish Church*, after *Christs* death: and the seven famous Churches of *Asia* since. 4. As also, it would be resolved, when God did *unchurch* England, (which he *insinuates* as granted) Whether whilst it was *Popish* & *Antichristian*, or since the *Reformation*? 5. Let him resolve us, whether our first *Reformers* did *intend*, or undertake to *raise* up a new *Church*, or to *repair* the old corrupted state thereof (as they that returned from the *Babylonish* Captivity, did not build a *new Temple*, but *repair* and purge the old.) 6. Whether at the *Reformation* in *K. Edw.* & *Q. Eliz.* days, there were not *true Churches* planted in *England*? & then how they came to cease to be, seeing they were rather *perfected* since, than corrupted? 7. Lastly, Whether our *Reverend Author*, do not in his *conscience* think, "*There were no true Churches in* "*England, till the Brownists, their Fathers,* "*the Anabaptists, their elder Brothers, and*

them-

"*themselves arose, and gathered new Churches, not out of true Churches, but out of* "Babylon, *as their Predecessors used to* "*speak*: which he yet seems to *insinuate* when he saies, "*The Catholick mystical,* "*and that visibly professing being preserved* "*entire, he that thinketh there needs a mi-* "*racle for those who are members of them,* "*to joyn in such a Society, as those spoken* "*of, according to the Institution of Christ, is a person delighting in needless scruples.* As if he should say, There was *no Church* of *Christs Institution* in *England*, till they or their *Predecessors* arose, and gathered such *Societies*; and when all *Church State* was here lost, they had the happyness and honour to revive it. *Macte virtute.* p. 212.

2. Those last words of his, were the answer to his 2d. question; "*How then is it* "*possible, that any such Church should be* "*raised anew?* To which he gives that answer, "*I say the Catholick Church mystical, &c.* And to make it good, he proceeds further to say, "*Christ hath* "*promised, That where two or three are* "*gathered together in his name, he will be in the midst of them.* But I pray to whom was this *promise made*? was it not to his *Officers*, the *Apostles*, in their *consultations*, § 9.

out, or *Church-determinations*? Or grant it made to *Believers*, is it not as true of them that are *out* of his *Church-fellowship*? When two or three *Christians* accidentally meet together, and *pray*, *&c.* Is not Christ also in the midst of them? Yea, grant him his own sense, what then? "*It is now supposed, with some hope to have* "*it granted, that the Scripture being the* "*power of God to salvation, hath a sufficiem efficacy in it self, for the conversion of* "*Souls.* All this is granted; what God may do by his *extraordinary power*, we determine not; but this is *ordinarily* done by *preaching*, and those *Preachers* in *Office*, Rom. 10. 14. But go on: "*It is* "*not impossible that though all Church* "*state should cease, in any place, and yet the* "*Scripture by the providence of God, be* "*there in the hand of individuals, two or* "*three should be called, converted and regenerated by it.* This also may be *supposed*, though I believe he cannot *exemplifie* such a case; The *question* only would be, if some *Heathens* should find the *Scriptures*, how they should understand either the *Original Languages*, without a *Teacher*, or a *miracle*; or the sense of them, without a *guide*, as the *Eunuch* said to *Philip*: But suppose all; they

are

are *converted* by the *Scriptures* alone: What then? He asks "*whether these* "*converted persons, may not possibly come* "*together in the name of Jesus.* No doubt they may, if they were 20. or 40. of them; But can their *assembling* together, make them a Church? How can that be, before they are *baptized*? and how *baptized* without a *Minister*? Shall they be *Se-baptists*, or *baptize* one another? I suppose our *Author* is not yet come to this. But he says, "*May they* "*not upon his command, and in expectation* "*of his promise, so come together, with reso-* "*lution to do his will, and exhort one ano-* "*ther thereto*? Truly (to use his own words) I believe they may, in what part of the world soever their *Lot* is fallen; Where then lyes the *difficulty*? "*In this,* "*whether being come together in the name* "*of Christ, they may do what he hath com-* "*manded them or no*? *whether they may* "*exhort and stir up one another, to do the* "*will of Christ*? No, there is no *difficul-* *ty*, but *duty*, in all this. But here lies the *difficulty*, (which his *new notion*, or his *haste* made him forget, "*How these persons* "*can come to be a Church, before they are* "*baptized, and how they can be baptized* "*without a Minister*? Were not men

p. 213.

See Confess. of 7. Anabap. Churches Art. 34. A Church is a company of baptized persons.

pre-

prejudiced, or prepossessed, with some *Anabaptistical* fancy, here would be the *difficulty* of the business. The *Iberians*, if stories say true, were converted by a *Christian woman*, and by a *miracle*; but surely, she could not *baptize* them; therefore they sent for some *Ministers* to baptize, and to put them into *Church Order*.

So were the Indians Socrat. *Hist. l.1. c. 15.16. converted by lay-men, as called.*

§. 10. It was the *Soul-sick fancy* of our late *Seekers* (that had lost all *Religion*) that all *true Church state*, was lost in all the *world*, as well as in *England*, (and our *Author* thinks little less, till the *form* of his own Churches was found) and therefore they expected some extraordinary *Officers* to raise it up from the dead; which was to *looke for a miracle*. And in the case propounded, of two or three *converted* by the *Scripture* alone, in a remote corner of the world, I would gladly know, how a *Church* can be *begun* without a *miracle*. For though a company of *baptized* persons, might (in an extraordinary case) chuse themselves, *Officers*, *prima vice*, and so make a Church; yet *unbaptized* persons converted, cannot make a Church, till they be baptized, and who shall baptize them without a *miracle*, unless *providence*

dence send them a *Minister* to do it? For true *Believers* or *Professors* of the faith, *quà* such, cannot make a *particular* Church: their own *first principle* of a *particular* Church, must be *baptized persons*, and how they can come to be such, without a *Minister*, without a *miracle*, I cannot yet see. This is the bottome of the *Seekers*, now turn'd into *Quakers*, "*All* Church state *it lost, and no recovery* "*of it without new Revelation*; and so they fancy the *Spirit* to be given to them, to begin a *new Church*. And in our brethrens *new Church way*, had their *people* renounced their *baptism*, (as *Anabaptists* have done) as they themselves have renounced their *Ministry*, I would be informed, whether they could ever have made a Church of *unbaptized* persons, without a *Minister*, without a *miracle*; and then, whether they must not turn, either *Anabaptists* or *Quakers*; either making *Baptism administrable*, by any brother, that hath the *boldness*, to take it up; or expect *new Revelations* of the *indwelling* Spirit, and so become *extraordinary Officers*. This and more that might be said, imports (for ought I see) that there shall never *cease* to be a *Church* or *Churches*, wherein some *Officer*.

See Confess. of 7. churches Art. 41. The person dispencing Baptism, is a disciple, not tyed to a Church Officer.

some *instituted Ordinances* shall be preserved (though covered over with much *corruption*) those particularly, of the *Ministry* and *Baptism*; or else the *Church-state* being once lost, and perished, can never be *restored*, without a *miracle*. When *Judah* was carryed away captive to *Babylon*, with all her *Priests* and *Levites*, and all the *materialls* of their *National* Church-state, the *Temple* destroyed, *&c.* It may seem, that their whole *Church-state* was ceased, as to their *Ceremonial worship*, for 70 years together; It might be asked, "*How then it was possible* "*to revive that lost Church-state without* "*a miracle*? The answer may be, That God *preserved* the seed of that Church at *Babylon*; partly in preserving the people there, a remnant of his circumcised people; partly in reserving the *holy vessels*, useful for their worship, and partly in *keeping* the *Line* and *Genealogy* of the *priesthood* entire; so that when all these were brought back to *Jerusalem*, they had no need of a *miracle*, to revive their *Church-state*; or to build a *new Temple*; but only to *purge* and repair the old and to set up the *instituted* services, in their power and purity. The application is so easy, that the *Reader* will outrun me:

So

So, when *Antichrist* had usurped tyrannically (like another *Nebuchadnezzer*) over all *Churches*, ruind *particular* Churches, corrupted the *Ordinances* of Christ, *World*, *worship*, *discipline*, yet God reserved *secretly*, some true *believers*, and some *professors*, together with *so much* of his *Ordinances*, as to *substantialls*; and necessary *ingredients* to a Church, a *Ministry*, and *baptism*, &c. that when he stirred up the heart of *Luther*, and other *Ministers* (like another *Zerubbabel*) and some people to *separate* themselves from the *Romish tyrannie* and corruptions in *doctrine* and *worship*, they needed no *miracle* to beginne a *new Church*; but some being *ministers* of the Gospell, so made in their *Ordination*, and all being *baptized*, they did not *raise* a *new Church*; but onely purged the old.

We are come now to consider, with him, "*What is the Union and Communi-* §. 11.
"*on of a particular Church, that so we* pag. 214.
"*may know wherein the bonds thereof do*
"*consist.* And instead of telling us what this *union* is, he tells us, what is the *foundation* of that union; which he makes to be double; "*The one externall, pro-*
"*curing*

"*curing command ng, viz. the Institut i-*
"*on of Jesus Christ, before mentioned,*
"*requiring peace, order, union, consent and*
"*agreement, among all the members of it,*
"*&c*: But I think that all this is the *foundation* of the union, both of the *invisible*, and *visible*, Catholick Church; All the members of *them*, (as well as of the *particular*) are under those *commands* of *Christ*, requiring peace, order, *&c*: for their *walking* in such *societies*, when and where they can associate: and where is then the difference of this *Church*, from the other? 2. "*The inte-*
"*nall foundation of this union, is that*
"*Love without dissimulation, which all-*
"*wayes is, or ought to be, betweene all the*
"*members of such a Church, exerting it*
"*selfe, in their respective duties*, &c. But this also, is the foundation of the *union* of the other two *Churches*; *Love without dissimulation*; as was said a-
p. 98. bove. And so yet we have no *difference*. But we enquire, what is the *union* it selfe, or rather what is the *forme* (for that gives *union*) the *specificating* forme, that distinguishes this *Church*, from the rest, the other two aforegone. This it
p. 215. is; "*The joynt consent of all the members*
"*of it, from a principle of Love, to walke*
"*together*,

"*together, in the universall celebration of* "*all the Ordinances of the worship of God,* "*and to performe all offices of Love, to one another, &c.*: But most of this, is applicable to the other two Churches, or notions of a Church: All the *members* of them, are bound by a *command* of Christ, to *consent* or *agree* to *joyne together*, (when and where they can) from a *principle* of Love, in the *universall celebration* of all the Ordinances of worship, and the rest: what then is the *Specificative forme* (if it have any) of a *particular* Church? And if it have a forme, to distinguish it *specifically* from the other, have not they also *formes*, to distance them from this? And if so, are there not *three species* of a Church? which he seem'd to *deny* above. We have them all, described below, *p.* 236. "*The forme of the Church Catholick, ab-* "*solutely so called, is the unitie with* "*Christ, and in it selfe, by the one Spirit,* "*whereby it is animated.* This is not very accurately spoken: is the *unitie* of the *head* and *members* the forme of a man? It is not rather, the *one Soul* that animates it, "*the oneneſſe of soul, where-* "*by the whole is animated.* p. 95. And

will he say, the *one Spirit* of God, is the *form*, or *soul*, that *animates* the *Catholike Church*? I was afraid, when I read above, "*That which answers hereunto* "(*the soul in man*) *in the mystical body of* "*Christ, is the Animation of the whole* "*by his Spirit.* I was, I say, afraid to fasten this *conceit* upon the words: Nor did, I think, he intended any such thing, when he said; "*That Quæ quæ, is no* "*more, but κατὰ κλίσιν, I cannot easily* "*consent*, p. 49. But upon second thoughts, finding him to repeat the phrase, of *Animation* by the *Spirit* in this place; and to talke of the *Inhabitation* of the Spirit p 94. 95. & the indwelling Spirit, I beganne to suspect him to *incline* at least, to this *errour*, (for so it hath been reputed *by all Orthodox Divines*;) And since I heare, that he *preached* this publickly at Oxford, "*That* "*believers have not onely the speciall gra-* "*ces, and operations of the Spirit in them,* "*but the person of the holy Ghost indwel-* "*ling in them*, which was the *errour* of one of the *chiefe Leaders* of *Independent sm*, in *New England*, and by his *brethren* there condemned; which is *seriously* to be by them considered. God seemes to *bless* their way, not onely by

p. 95.

See the Appendix below, Sect. 4.

suffering

suffering their people to fall from them, but also by letting themselves fall into *strange opinions*, or strong *delusions*. Not onely *some* that were once theirs, have fallen into some *doctrines* of *Poperie* and *Arminianism* (almost all the *sects*, preach those points;) but some of themselves, that felt not so farre, have yet vented *dangerous* and *damnable* doctrines; as I could instance, but forbeare! But to returne; 1. The *forme* of the *mystical* Church, is, (say some of his side) *Faith*. 2. "*The forme of the Catholike* "*visibly professing, is the unity of that, as* "*being by them professed*, that is, say o-thers, (and he above) the *profession* of the *same Faith*. 3. "*The forme of the* "*particular Church, as such, is its observ-* "*ance and performance of the same Ordi-* "*nances of worship numerically, in the con-* "*fession of the same Faith, and subjection* "*to the same rules of Love, for the edifica-* "*tion of the whole*. I observe first, the difference; He said above, the *union of this Church*, (which he makes the *specificating forme*, not very properly) is the *joynt consent* of all the *members* to perform the same Ordinances of worship: but now here sayes, "*It is the joynt obser-* "*vance of all Ordinances, &c.* And in-

p. 236.

deed this seemes to be the *specificating* difference or *forme* of this Church, as distinct from the other, "*the* Communi-"on *of all the members of it, in all the same* "numericall Ordinances *of worship*. And this is the plaine truth; dropped from him unawares, (contrary to his partners and his own Judgment), concerning the forme of a particular Church; It is not, (as they have held out hitherto) an *explicite consent*, of all the members, but, "*Its observance and perfor-*"*mance of the same Ordinances of worship* "*numerically, in the confession of the same* "*Faith*, &c: Whence I would inferre, 1. That if the members of the invisible or visible Church Catholike do occasionally meet together, in observation of the same numericall Ordinances of worship, then and there is found a particular Church; though no explicite consent be passed by them, one to another. 2. That the explicite consent, they so much talke of, is not necessary by institution of Christ to the forme or essence of a particular Church, (the implicite covenant of Christianitie, binding them to such performance, when and where it is possible) but is

onely

onely a prudentiall meanes, or bond, for the better tying of members together, for observance of the Ordinances, and to exercise mutuall duties of love, to one another, as hath been said. But as I said above, these are not three *Churches* differing *specifically*, but a *notionall* distinction of that *one Church*, or the members of it, as they may be considered, 1. As true *believers*, 2. As *professors* of the same Faith; 3. As *partakers* of the same worship. Now its evident that one and the *same person*, may be all these, an *invisible believer*, a *visible professor*, and a *fellowworshipper*. As we use to say in *Philosophy*, there is a threefold life, *vegetative*, *sensitive* and *rationall*; which may be all three, in one man, & yet but one man, or creature. So then the *forme* of a *particular* Church, (if it have any) is rather *communion in* the same *numericall* worship, than *joynt consent* to communicate in that worship: That *consent* Dr. *Ames* makes not the *forme* of a particular Church, but the *bond*, to tye the members faster together, to their *publick* and *priuate* duties among themselves. For as a man may be a *believer*, or a *professor*, and yet not

have opportunity to *communicate* in the same worship, (as he said above) to all and every *member* of a Church, every Christian is bound to *believe*, to *professe* that faith, and to *joyne* in the performance of the same *numericall* worships, when and where onely he hath opportunity: Which he granted above, p. 205.

§. 12. But I desire to know, what he means by that *joyne consent* of all the members of a *particular* Church? I suppose he intends it, (as his *predecessors* did) of, an *explicite covenant*, entered by every partie, that joynes in that *societie*, gathered, or to be gathered. This is their dayly *practise*. But then I desire an *instance*, of any *Church* in Scripture, or story, so *consenting*, so covenanting as before. And withall I would aske, whether none be *members* of his Congregation, but onely such, as give this *explicate* consent? If he say, Not any, but such; I aske, whether the *Children* of such *Church-members*, born and bred up in that *Church*, be not to be accounted *members*? If he say, they are *confederate* in their parents, I regest, that's but an *implicite consent*; but he required an *explicite*

plicitus one. And then I would tell him, that the *brethren* of *New England* grant, that an *Implicite* consent or covenant is sufficient, to make our *Churches* true Churches, and yet our brethren here separate from us, as no *Churches*. 2. I would gladly be *informed*, where the Scripture speaks of any other *consent*, or *Covenant*, to *Church-membership*, than that of Christianitie, wherein they *engaged*, at *baptisme*, to serve God according to his *will* and *word*, and to *walke* up to *all* duties, of all *Relations*, one towards another. 3. I would yet be *satisfied* whether this *explicite* consent, be *exclusive*, that none may *partake* of those *Ordinances*, (common to all Christians) in *their societies*, but such as enter this *consent*? Their practise here and in *New England* is, or hath been, that none can have *Communion* with them in *Church Ordinances*, but onely such, as are *confederate*. 1. They will not *baptize* the child of the most *godly* parent, nor admit to the *Supper*, the best knowing and pious person, not-*matriculated* into their Church. If they have relinquish'd this *practise*, its well; but if they have, they destroy their own *principles*, and prove themselves the more *in-*

injurious to our Churches, in *separating* from them. 5. And as for those *offices of Love*, spoken of, I aske once more; are they *also exclusive*, to be tendered to none, but their own *combined* members? It should seeme so, because they are here limited to the *members* of this *particular* Church, *in their respective places and stations.* And their practise hath been answerable: As they account none to be *within*, but such; so some have said; "*They had no more to do, with "a Christian, not of their own way, than "with an Heathen.* How truely is *Schism* attended with *breach of Charitie?*

§. 13. p. 216. But yet behold his liberalitie: "*I "shall further grant, that over and above "the union, that is between the members "of severall particular Churches, by vir-"tue of their interest in the Church Catho-"lick, which draws after it, a necessitie "of the occasionall exercise of love one to-"wards another, and that Communion "they have as members of the Catholicke "visible Church, &c: There is a Com-"munion also to be observed, between those "Churches as such, which is or may be ex-"erted in their Assemblyes, by their De-"legates, &c:* What doth he meane?

That

That the *members* of each *particular* Church, among themselves, have *communion*; but not with the members of *another* particular Church? That was their *practise* somewhere. Or that the members of *severall particular* Churches, have *union* and *communion*, in the *worship* of God, in the same Church? This was not their *practise* once, though they were *Churches* of the same *constitution*, with their own. A member of one Church might not receive the *Supper*, in another; Nor one *Minister* administer *baptisme* or the *Supper* in another's Church; *preach* they might, as gifted brethren, which they allowed them to do to *Heathens*: What *union* or *communion* was here of *severall* Churches? And for those *Offices of love*, he speaks of; they were onely occasionally, which they owe and tender to an *Heathen*; which not onely their interest in the *Catholicke Church*, but even the *Law of Humanitie*, drawes after it "*an occasionall exercise of duties of Love*, as the *Samaritane* once expressed. In a word, this *Communion* of members of *severall* Churches, is nothing but what is due to and from the *members* of the *Catholick visible* Church, that never were

joyned

joyned in *communion* with any *particular* Church. Lastly as for that *communion* between *Churches* as *such*, in their *Assemblyes* by *Delegates*, it is not a *communion*, in his esteeme, by an *institution* of Christ; but a matter of *prudence* onely, which he so much decryed before, p. 210.

§. 14. And now we are coming to consider how he can *wash* his hands from the guilt of *Schisme*, in making *differences*, first, and then *separating* from our Churches. To this end, he layes down some *Postulata*, which he takes as *granted*, because before *debated*, which are all *disproved*, and need not here to be done againe. Yet we shall briefly take notice of them, and give them a further
p. 217. answer. 1. "*That the departing of any* "*man or men from any particular Church* "*as to that communion, peculiar to such a* "*Church, is no where called Schisme; nor* "*is so in the nature of the thing it selfe*, "&c. This is not the *question*, as was said above. A *simple secession*, of a man or men, upon some just occasion, is not called *Schisme*; But to make *causeless differences* in a Church, and then *separating*

parting from it, as no *Church*, denying *communion* with it; hath the *nature* and *name* of *Schism* in all men's judgments, but his own. Yea, according to his own *principles*, to *raise differences* in a *Church* is properly *Schism*; to *persist* in maintaining those *differences*, is a *worse Schism*; and then upon those *differences*, to depart and *break* the Church into pieces, is *Schism* in the highest degree, and *admits* of all his own *aggravations* given above, and is an *heinous* sinne. 2. "*One Church refusing to hold that communion with* "*another, which ought to be between them,* "*is no Schism, properly so called.* Besides what hath been said above, that *one Church* may *raise differences* in and with another Church, which hath the *nature* of *Schism*; I adde, that these words are *equivocall*; for they holding all *Churches* to be *Independent*, they must hold, consequentially, there is not necessarily any *communion* between them as *Churches*, but as to particular *members* of the *Catholick Church*; the refusing to hold *communion* with another Church, can be no *Schism*, because they *owe* no *communion* to one another, p. 218.

as

at least of *divine institution*, but of *mere prudence*, as was newly said. But seeing, as I proved, there ought to be a *communion* between all *particular Churches*, not onely in *profession* of the same Faith, but also in the same *specifically*, and where it is possible, *numericall* worship, the refusing to hold this *union* and *communion*, in *doctrine* or *worship*, hath the *nature*, and well deserves the *name* of *Schism*. 3. "*If that departure of any man or men, be done without strife, variance, judging and condemning of others, it cannot be evill, but from circumstances*, &c: This is as much as to say, *that departure* which is not *evill*, is not *evill*; For *Schism* in its nature signifies or presupposes *variance*, *strife*, and *divisions* before the *parting*, and is commonly attended with *judging* and *condemning* of others, both *persons* and *Churches*, as experience tells us at this day; The very *separation* from a *Church*, to set up another Church, is a *reall judging* and condemning of the Church from whence they separated. Is it not the *practise* of all *Separatists*, to *judge* and *condemne* all our Churches, as *Antichristian*, or *none*; to aspersе us

as

as no *Ministers*, but *Priests*, *&c*? Is it not the *designe* of his book, to prove (if he could) and *condemne* us as *no Churches*? Let the world be judge; for unlesse this be proved, he can never *justifie* his *separation*: either therefore, he must *prove* us to be no *Churches* of *Christs institution*, and that he owes us *no communion*, nor hath broken any *union*, of Christs appointment, (which he shall never be able to prove) or else he had need put himselfe, not upon the *Justice*, but on the *largest mercy* of his *Judges*.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Independentism, a great Schism.

§. 1. In his vindication of himselfe and partie, from the charge of Schisme, by Presbyterians, he first layes down their Independency; to which how he hath answered, and acquitted him selfe, let them, if they please, consider. I shall onely take notice by the way, of some things tending to the issue of the debate between us and him, and that very briefly. He first considers in what sense the *Church of England* may be taken: As 1. "*The people of God his elect, &c: in* "*this Nation, may (though improperly)* "*be called the Church of England.* But why not as *properly*, as all *true believers* in the world, may be, and are by him, called the *Catholike Church.* The *World* and a *Nation*, differ but as greater and lesser, as a part and the whole; and a *particular* Church is but a *part* of the *Catholike*; and so as properly called a Church. "*In this sense (sayes he) it is* "*the desire of our souls, to be and abide* "*members of the Church of England; to* "*keep with it the unitie of the Spirit, in*

"*the*

"*the Bond of peace.* But unlesse he think there are no *members* of this Church in *England* but those that are of his *formed* particular Churches, I fear he will be found to *break the Union*, that ought to be between them. And indeed, it seems by their gathering the *Saints* of those *single congregations*, they intend to have none *but such* of their Churches, which is (as much as they can) to make the *invisible Church*, to be *visible* on earth. He speaks something *suspiciously* this way, p. 90. "*The Elect and the Church, are the same* "*persons, under several considerations, and* "*therefore even a particular Church, on the* "*account of its participation of the nature* "*of the Catholick, is called the elect*, 1. Pet. 5. 13. And yet he speaks "*of some parts* "*of the body, unworthy*, p. 219. which, who they be in his Church, I know not. They leave those to us, to *cleanse* and *purifie*, and then they may admit them, into their *elected* Congregations. But he says, "*If we have grieved, offended, troubled the least member of his* "*church, so that he may justly take offence* "*at any of our words, we profess our readi-* "*ness to lie at his feet for reconciliation* &c. p. 223. This strengthens the *suspicion* of what I said; For unless he take us all for *Reprobates*,

hates, we have and do profess our selves (and we think, justly) *offended* at their *ways*, and how ready they have been to give us *satisfaction*, let the world judge. The rest that follows, is spoken with equal *confidence* and *truth*, "*If we love* "*not all the members of this Church, re-* "*joyce not with them, &c.* but I forbear; He deludes us, when he saies, if we do not these things, "*Let us be esteemed the* "*vilest Schismaticks that ever lived on the* "*face of the earth.* For if we prove all or some of these to be false, yet he accounts none of them to be *Schismatical*, whatever they may be else.

§. 21 p. 224. 2. "*In this sense also, we* profess *our* "*selves members of the Church of Eng-* "*land, as professing and adhering to the* "*doctrine of Faith, in the unity of it, which* "*was here established, declared by Laws,* "*Confessions, Protestations, &c.* Will he *undertake* this, for all the *Independent* Churches in *England*? Are not many of them grossly *Apostatized* from the professed *doctrine* of this *Church*, and so *Heretical*? But, were it true which he says for himself, they may be excused from being *Heretical*; but they may yet be *Schismatical*, in denying *communion* in matter

matter of *worship*. For the *worship* of God, was as well *declared*, *professed*, *protested*, as the Doctrine. They hold *communion* with us in *profession* of the same Faith, but not in the *observance* of the same *worship*; yet are the *Ordinances* of worship as *pure* with us, as with them, or let them prove out *failings*, and we promise a *Reformation*. In this sense they are neither *children*, nor *members* of the *Church* of *England*. And this is the wonder. That professing, "*they received their regeneration and new birth, by the preaching of the word and the saving truths thereof, with the seal of it in their Baptism*, they should now *separate* from us, not only in that *Ordinance* of the *Lords Supper*, but also in the *preaching* of the *Word* and *Baptism*. Could they make use of our *preaching* and *Baptism*, for their *regeneration*, and not of the other *Sacrament*, and the same *preaching* for their *confirmation*? and besides, now renounce us as no *true Churches*? This we think is *Brownistical* and highly *Schismatical*. The *Anabaptists* deal more *rationally*, to their own principles, in denying our *Ministry*, and *Baptism*, and all *Church-state*, than they do. The old Rule was "*The sincere preaching of* p. 225.

"*the Word, and right administration of the* "*Sacraments, are the Characters of a* "*true Church*, Which we *having*, and they separating from us, in all *Church-Communion*; how shall this *crime* be *named*, but by *Schism* in the highest degree?

§. 3. But as they have left us, so some of their
p. 226. *Independent Churches*, have left them, *viz.* "*Those who have renounced the baptism* "*they received in their infancy, and repeat* "*it amongst themselves.* And have they not done this, upon their own *principle?* "*That all true Church-state is lost in* England. And if so, then no *true Ministry*, no *Baptism*, no *Church*; and then it must be revived, by a *new baptism*, the *door* of a true Church; It was told the *Brownists* long ago; "*either they must come back to* "*us, or go forward to Anabaptism*; and so must the *Independents*, if their *principles* and *conclusions*, be *consonant* to one another, yea many are fallen from them to *Anabaptism*; and I believe nothing but the *odium*, or some *private interest* keeps many more from following after them. But what thinks he of *Anabaptists?* are they *Schismaticks* or no, for their *separation?* Hear his *Apology* for them, "*yet I suppose, that he, who upon*

"*that*

"*that single account, will undertake to prove* "*them Schismatical, may find himself en-* "*tangled.* To *raise up differences*, causelesse, differences (unlesse *Pædobaptism* be a trivial thing) and upon that to *separate* not only from the *judgement* and *practise* of all the *Christian Churches* in the world, at present, but from the *judgment* and *practise* also of all the *primitive* and *succeeding* Churches in all ages, and all places, if this be not *Schismatical*, I know nothing that deserves that name. Sure the *Donatists* were generally accounted *Schismaticks*, for *rebaptizing* those that came to them, from other *Churches*; but, sayes he, "*The case is not* "*exactly with the Anabaptists, as it was* "*with the Donatists. Exactly* the same? True, for they lived in *Africk*, these in *Europe*. But they do the same thing; *rebaptize* the same that were *baptized* by us. That is granted; "*but not on the* "*same principles*: yes, upon the very same principle; though they added another, which the *Donatists* knew not. As how? *P.* 226. "*The Donatists rebaptized those who came* "*to their societies, because they believed,* "*that all administration of Ordinances, out* "*in their Assemblies, was null, and to be* "*looked on, as no such thing.* And do not

Anabaptists think so, and say so of all the *Ordinances* administred in our *Church*? yea of *Baptism*, given to *Infants*, in the *Independent* Churches? Do they not, or would they not *rebaptize* any that comes from them, to their *Societies*? because they think their *Baptism* null, if not their other *Ordinances*. But he hath an help for this, "*Our Anabaptists* (yes your *Anabaptists*) *do the* "*same thing*; *but on this plea that though* "*Baptism be, yet Infant Baptism is not an* "*Institution of Christ*, *and so is null from* "*the nature of the thing it self*, *not the way* "*of administration of it*. Yes, both ways they hold it *null*; and so much worse and more *Schismatical* than the *Donatists*. They *rebaptized* only (as some think) those that were *baptized* by *Cecilianus*; or some of his *Ordination*; but did not so with others, nor did they think *Baptism* in *infancy* to be *null* in the nature of the thing. But *Anabaptists*, rebaptize all, come they from what Church they will, and are not these the worse *Donatists*? But let him take heed, lest in *defending* a bad cause, he make himself guilty of the sin. Does not he himself *labour*, in this book, to prove, that the *Administration* of *Ordinances*, in

our

our Assemblies are *null*? Our *Ordination null*, p. 197. and *Antichristian*, from the *Beast*: And charging them that insist upon it, as "*keeping up what God* "*would have pull'd down* p. 198. and consequently, the *Ordinances* by us *administred*, are *null*: And why then, is not he *rebaptized*? Yea our *Churches* are esteemed not of *Christ's institution*, because not *lawfully* gathered; and are not these worse than *Donatists*? But he saies, "*This* "*falls not within the verge of my defence*." Yet he could not but speak a *good word* for them; They must not be *schismaticks*, lest he be proved so too. They are but one step before him, it may be his own case ere long. And I durst almost be his *prophet* to foretell what he and others will do; If they stick close to, and manage that principle well, "*That all true Church-state was* "*lost in England*: they must not stay where they are but go *forward* either to *Anabaptism*, and be *rebaptized*; or to *Quakerism*, (as some already are) and deny all use of *outward baptism*.

see page 206. §. 10.

But hear his conclusion; "*In these several considerations*, "*we were and do continue members in the Church of God* "*in England*; *and as to our failing*

§. 4. p. 226.

"*herein, who is it that convinces us of sin?* How *warily*, first; *Members in the Church of England*, not of it, not of any *particular* Church of *England*; but as of a *Church* new *revived* and gathered, in *England*. But I ask: were they not *members* of some *particular* Church of *England*, when they were *baptized*? yea, for all *Ordinances* till of late, and some of them *Ministers* besides? And have they not renounced *Ministry*, and *Lords Supper*, and all but *Baptism*? Let them speak plainly: Were they *baptized* as *members* of any Church, or no? if of any, of what? if of none, how at all? unless they hold *Baptism* no Church Ordinance. And by whom? by a *Minister* as such to them? or is not *Baptism* a *ministerial* act? If they may receive *Baptism*, without *Church-communion* (if we be no *Churches*) why not also the *Lords Supper*? If *Communion* with the *Church Catholick*, may serve for one *Ordinance*, why not for another? Or if they may receive *Baptism* validly, in our *Churches*, why not other *Ordinances*? These questions would be *seriously* and *conscientiously* answered. But how confidently he shuts up, "*As to our failing* "*herein, who is it that convinces us of sin?*

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He that spake those words first, was more than a man. Its too much for any meer man to think, much more to say, *Who is it that convinces me of sin?* in his best performances; if men cannot, God can. But if our *Churches* were not true, sure they failed in *joyning* so long with us. Yet we charge them not with *failings* in their *Communion*, but for *relinquishing* that Communion, and at *parting*, to cast *dirt* in their *Mothers* face that *bare* them them (as is confessed) as no *honest Woman*.

The rest that follows for many pages together, concerning the *union* of a *National Church*, and *breach* of that union, I leave to them that are concerned in it. Only I shall take notice of one passage which is this; "*Whereas sundry Ordi-* "*nances of the worship of God, are rightly* "*to be administred only in a Church, and* "*Ministers do evidently relate thereunto;* "*the denyal of a National Church-state,* "*seems to deny that we had either Mini-* "*sters or Ordinances here in England.* How will he answer this? especially having renounced his own *Ministry*, received in this *National* Church, and all besides in respect of Church *Communion*, except his *Baptism*, as *null*, or *naught*. §. 5. p. 245.

Thus he saies, and thats all; "*It may* "*seem so to do, but it doth not: unlesse you* "*will say that unlesse ye be a National* "*Church-state, there is no other; which is* "*too absurd for any one to imagine.* The *consequence* cannot well be denyed, in his *notion* of this Church. For if there were no *Ministers*, but ordained by those *National Officers*, and those *Officers* not of *Christs institution*, (as he hath often pleaded) it follows necessarily, that first there were no *Ministers*, lawful in this Church, and so no *Ordinances* truly administred in it, and at last no *Church* at all. This I doubt, or rather believe, by what he hath said, is his *judgement*, but he durst not speak out. For, I ask, Does he in his *conscience* believe, there were any true *Ministers* in this Church, in the time of its being *National*? and if no *Ministers*, no *Ordinances* rightly administred. But why does he not tell us, what that *other Church-state* is, of which he speaks? he denies all, but the *Independent state* of new gathered Churches; which were not found in the *Prelates* times, except some *Brownistical* Societies: we shall not thank him for this *jejune* and *empty* vindication, but shall plead for our selves. Our former *Divines*

vines of the first *reformation*, and since, have pleaded, and justifyed their *Ordination*, for the *essentialls* of it, received from *Rome*: which being *purged* from all those *super-induced corruptions*, they propagated unto us, who may therefore the better *justifie* our own. Those *Bishops* that ordained us, had (as he told us above) a double *capacitie*; One as *Lord Bishops*, received from the *state*, *p.* 227. Another as *Ministers* of the Gospell, to *preach*, *administer* Sacraments, to joyne in *Ordination* of *Ministers*, *p.* 231. Now in this latter, some of themselves *professed*, (and so we *understood* it) that they ordained *Presbyters*, as *presbyters*, not as *Bishops*. Hence it followes, that though they presumed to themselves, a *Lordly power*, not according unto the *institution* of Christ, whereby they called themselves a *nationall Church*, &c. Yet the *Ordination* being according to the *Rule* of the Gospell (as we beleive it is sufficiently proved, and never yet sufficiently answered) there were *Ministers* lawfully called, and *Ordinances* by them rightly administred; and that is the *other Church state*, which he would not doe us the *honour* to name, least he should thereby condemn himself as a *Schismatick*,

matick, in departing from this *Church state*. These true and faithfull *Ministers*, (with their *people* in their severall Congregations) administring the true *Ordinances* of *Jesus Christ* (whereof *their baptism* was one) were, and still are the true *Church-state* of *England*, for which we plead, and he hath forsaken. Some additions of humane *prudence*, cannot annull the *Ordinances* of Christ.

§. 6. The *way* of the *prelates*, he told us p. 235. to stablish a *nationall* Church, was *descendendo*; of the *Presbyterians*, *ascendendo*: That is, "*that such a thing* "*should rise from the particular Congre-* "*gations, by sundry Associations, and sub-* "*ordinations of Assemblyes, in and by* "*the representatives of those Chur-* "*ches.* But this may prove a mistake, For, 1. The *Presbyterians* rather goe *descendendo*, as well as the *prelates* did at least in part: They agree both in this, that they acknowledge their *rise* and *originall* to be from the *Apostles*; who were the first *founders* of all Churches, and the supreme *Officers* of the Church; For them were other *Ministers* ordained, in *subordination* to them, *Bishops* say some, (*Archbishops* and then *Bishops*,

p. 235.

p. 246.

say

y others) and they ordained *Presbyters* ordinate unto them, or as he styles hem) *parochiall Priests*, p. 235: The *Presbyterians* say, the *Apostles* first made *Presbyters*, and gave them power to ule their *particular* Churches, and as occasion required, to *meet* together, by *Delegates*, in a *Classis*, or *Synod* (as that at *Jerusalem* consisted partly of *Elders*, with the *Apostles*). 2. They lay the *rise* of *Ministerial power* to be *universall* as well as the *Prelates*, supposing a *Minister* to be a *Minister*, in what part soever of the world, his *lot* happen to be; and do not upon his *removiall*, give him a new *Ordination*; though he may not (for *order* sake) exercise that *power*, but when and where he hath a *call*, 3. That *call* may be different, 1. as he is called to take *care* of a *particular* Congregation, 2. as a *Delegate* to a *Classis*, or *Synod*, (which himself allowes, in the *Independent* way, as above) 3. As he is, in the *absence* of a particular Minister, desired to *Preach*, or *Baptise*, or do any other *Ministeriall* dutie, to another people: (as when the *Parliament* commands Doctor O. to *Preach* a Sermon to, and *pray* with them) Now this *Delegation* (which he meanes by

by *ascendendo*) doth not give him *new power*, distinct from what he hi before by his *Ordination*, but a *particu lar designation* to act this power, *pro hi & nunc*. As he hath often heard, bu will take no notice of it.

§. 7. p. 247. Whether a *Church* may be called *nationall*, when all the particular *Congregations* of one nation, agreeing in *doctrine* and *worship*, are governed by their *greater and lesser Assemblyes* (as some learned *Divines* have asserted) I will not dispute, but leave what they have said, to the further consideration of their *Adversaries*; Though this may be said; they did not make this the only, or the *principall* way, of that denomination; That was rather, "*when all* "*the Congregation of a nation, agree in* "*the Doctrine and worship, and celebrate* "*it accordingly*. The *Disciplinary* part, of *form*, of Government, is not *essential* to the Church, nor absolutely necessary; and the Church may *exist*, and be nationall without it: much lesse do any of ours say, "*That subjection to one ci-* "*vill Government, and agreement on the* "*same doctrine and worship specifically, &c. doth constitute one Church*: or as he expresses

expresses it, afterwards, p. 251, they do not say, "*that being under one civil* "*government, does constitute a Nationall* "*Church; for if so (sayes he), its forme* "*and unitie as such, must be given it by* "*the civill Government.* For the *unitie* thereof consists still in the *agreement* in the same *doctrine* and *worship*, and not in the *modell* of *civill Government* (of what kind soever). And if he allow (as he does) an *Association* of the *Delegates*, from severall Churches, to meet for matters of *common concernment*; by the same reason, (whether it be by *Institution*, or *prudence*) he must allow those *subordinate* Assemblyes. For the *light* of *nature* teaches the *necessitie* of *Appeales*, in *male-administrations*, for ending of *troubles*, and decision of differences, in *particular* Congregations; as was instanced in, the *Antiochians* appeale, to the Church of *Jerusalem*, in such a case; which (I say) whether it were by an *institution of Christ*, or an act of *Christian prudence*, will serve our turne, to justifie such *Associations*, though we do not account them to be the *forme*, or *cause* of the union, of a *Presbyterian* Church; but rather, *prudentiall* p. 250.

dential meanes, to preserve that unit

§. 8. Upon that mistake (of the *forme* of *nationall* Church to be the *institution* greater or *lesser Assemblyes*) he proceeds, to premise some things, which may take off the *charge* of *Schisme*, for their *separating* from our Churches, as true as their own. 1. "*No man can*

pag. 251. "*possibly be a member of a national* "*Church in this sense, but by being first a* "*member of some particular Church in* "*the nation; which concurres to make up* "*the nationall Church.* But that not being our opinion, the consequence failes: He granted as much, as we plead, p. 250. "*On the same account,* "*(that all the professors of the truth* "*throughout the world are the Ca-* "*tholick visible Church of Christ) may* "*all the professors of the truth* "*in England, be called the Church of* "*England.* And it was his own assertion above, to the contrary, "*That a man* "*may be a member of the Catholick visible* "*Church, and yet no member of a particu-* "*lar Church.* And why then may not a man be a member of a *Nationall* Church, and yet be no member of a *particular* Church? I could exemplifie cases, but I forbear. Indeed as the *state* of the nation, is, at this day, all generally be-

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ing *baptised* (except *Anabaptists* Children) no man is a *member* of the *nationall* Church, but he is also a member of some *particular* Church: That Church being (as he oft hath said) the *seat of Ordinances*. Hence, 2. its evident that a *man may recede* from this *nationall* Church, and not depart from some *particular* Church; because he may be a member of the *nationall*, (as well as of the Catholick) Church, and yet be no member of a *particular* Church, &c. on the other side, a man may be a *member* of some particular Church, and yet be no *member* of the *nationall* (in the sense of it by him given) as himselfe and others do too much evidence. 3. He sayes, "*To make men members of any* "*particular Churches, their own consent is required.* If he meane this of an *explicite* consent (as I suppose he does, or he sayes nothing) it is fully disproved above: and *implicite* confessed sufficient. A man that removes his *habitation*, (as both he, and we grant its free for him to do) may, by *setting down* in another Congregation, and *submitting* himselfe to all the *Ordinances* of Christ there, with *performance* of all Officers of *Love*, to the *members* of that Congregation, implicitely, and yet sufficiently, *consent*

to be a member thereof. And on the other hand, a man may not *remove* his habitation, from a *Congregation*, wherein he hath long *consented* to communicate, and yet remove his *consent* to be a *member* of another; as we see too much in this *loose* and wandring age.

§. 9. But fourthly, he now speaks out;
p. 252. "*That as yet, at least since possibly we could be concerned in it, who are now alive, no such Church in this nation hath been formed. It is impossible a man should be guiltie of offending against that which is not; unlesse they will say, we have separated from what should be.*" This *Engine* hath served him twice before; First against the charge of *Schism* by the *Romanists*, *Their's is no Church*, at all, how could they *separate* from that which is not? Then against the *Prelat's*, *Hierarchicall* Church; *Their's* is no *Church*: *Christs institution*, "*That wch is wanting cannot be numbred*, p. 242. And now the third time, against the same *charge* by the *Presbyterians*. It is true indeed, there hath no such *nationall* Church, been *uniformely*, formed in this nation; but he knows, such a *Church* hath been endeavoured to be formed;

formed, *conformable* to the Word of God, and to the best reformed Churches abroad, according to our *solemne covenant*; and who have *withstood*, *resisted*, and *hindered* it, (and yet do hinder) he knowes well enough. But withall, it cannot be denyed, but there are some *Presbyterian* Churches settled in *England*; (and perhaps some of their *members*, if not of *themselves* have been of them) from these they have *separated*, as well as from the rest. If there were not such here, there are such abroad, and yet they have *renounced communion* with them, as no true Churches, and that's a *negative separation*. Besides, there was, and is, another *Church state* in *England*, in our *particular* Churches; from these also they have most of them (as once of them) palpably *separated*. The *Presbyterian Church state*, as to particular Congregations; in *doctrine*, *worship*, and *discipline* in them, is the very same with theirs, (excepting that they hold their *Congregations*, to be *Independent*, and entire for all *Government* in themselves: but wee acknowledge our selves *dependent*, and would be glad, we had other *Churches* to joyne with) and yet they *separate* from, and disavow

them as well as others. Lastly, I believe those men, that *raise differences* in a *reforming* Church, and *persist* in keeping open those divisions, *separating* also into other *new Churches*, do as well deserve the name of *Schismaticks*, as those that make *differences* in one *particular* Church. And unlesse they can better prove (than yet they have done) that we are no *true Churches*; and their own to be the onely *true Churches*, in the *nation*, in the *World*, the *Schism* will lye at their door, (in all *equall* mens judgment); remove it, as they can.

§. 10.

p. 253. *Let him read the next disputation of* Amyraldus, *his definition of a Schismatick: and his censure of those that separate, will little please him.* Disput. de ecclesiæ membris

*As for *Amyraldus* his judgement, of the *confederation* of Churches, it is the same with ours, or not to the purpose. Our opinion is, that as the *consent* of *particular* members, explicite or implicite, is not the *forme* of a *particular* Church; So the *consent* of severall Churches, to *associate* in a *classis* or *Synod*, is not the *forme* of a *nationall* Church; The *explicite* consent of *members* (as they make use of it) is but a *prudentiall way*, to tye their members from *running* away from them, (and yet that will not do the deed) so the *explicite*

fice consent of *severall* Churches, into *Assemblyes*, is likewise a *prudentiall* way, for the better *Governing* of those Churches, and the easier *determining* of things of *common* concernment. And as the one, so the other, is a result of the *light* of *nature*, & need no *institution*. He may now perceave, that he is mistaken, in his thoughts of a *mutuall acknowledgment* of the things by him delivered; hardly in one of them do we agree. But we expected that he would (now at last) "*have laid down some* principles "*peculiar to himselfe and those with whom* "*he consents, in the way of the worship of* "*God*, &c: for not till then, will the *business* be brought to a *speedie issue*. As also we hoped, that he would have "*pleaded* "*the right, libertie, and duties of ga-* "*thering Churches, in such a State of* "*professors as that of late, and still amongst* "*us, built upon other* (*and better*) *princi-* "*ples than any* (*though he had occasion a-* "*nough*) *by him as yet mentioned*. But we must wait his leasure. His business and *policie* is (like the *Romanists* he spake of at the beginning) rather to *prove* us, and all Churches to be *corrupt* and *not rightly instituted*, than to defend

p. 254.

and *justifie* his own way of *gathering* Churches.

§. 11. But we are brought againe to his *removall* of the charge of *Schism*, which he sayes, "*in the true notion of it, relates* "*not to gathering of Churches, as simply* "*considered.* It not as *simply* considered, yet as it is the *consequent* of those *divisions* and separations, included in the *nature* of *Schism*; Those that *make differences* first, and then *separate* from a Church, use not to *stay* there, but being especially *Ringleaders* of the *separation*, they must *conformably* gather *another Church*, of a *firmer constitution*, or else condemne their own *separation*, as being of *no Church*: And the rather does this relate to *Schism* in *gathering* of Churches, because they do not onely *depart* themselves, (which is more *tolerable*) but draw off others also into a *formed* faction. Lets heare the old *Dilemma* revived against the *Presbyterians*, as afore against the *Prelaticall* Church; "*Either we have been members, by our own voluntary consent, according to the mind of Christ, of some* "*particular Congregations, in such a nationall Church, as part of such a Church;*

"*or*

"*or we have not.* It were *ridiculous* for any man to charg them with *separating* from such a Church, as never was *existent*, & that by their own *opposition* of its being, we blame them for *hindering* it to be set up *and for raising differences* in our Churches; and then *renouncing* communion with them, and all other of the like constitution, as was said above. Sure we are; most of them, if not all, were once members of our *particular* Churches, and some of them prime *Ministers* thereof; who after they had raised *differences* in those Churches (which himselfe sayes constitutes a *Schismatick*) separated themselves, and *drew disciples* after them, into new, *never heard* of *opposite* Congregations, setting up *Altar* against *Altar*, as the *Ancients* used to speak. But heare another evasion; "*If we have been members, by our own* "*voluntary consent.* As much by their *own voluntary consent*, as they were made members of the *Nation*; that is, *implicitely*, as *borne* and *bred* up in both. May they not as well *renounce* their *interest* in the nation, as their *communion* with the Church? and deny *subjection* to both? Or, is it in their *power* whe-

then they will be bound to *communion* with some *Church* or other, in the Nation? unlesse they can prove them all *heretically* & Antichristian. Yet further; by way of *Recrimination*; Have not we done as much as they "*in separating from the*
pag. 255. "*Church of England, of Episcopall con-*
"*stitution? rejected their nationall Offi-*
"*cers? and the way of worship establishe-*
"*ed, &c?* Not to *regest* to him, "*that*
"*this was done by other hands,* I must tell him; this is an *occursion*, when he is speaking of his relinquishment of a *Presbyterian* Church, to turne us back to the *Episcopall*: But this hath been his *businesse* from his first setting out, to make the *Presbyterian* Churches, to walke *pari passu*, with the *Episcopall* and *Romish* Churches. The *Churches* of England and all *Reformed* Churches are much beholden to him. Let him say plainly, have they not *renounced* all our *Churches*, since both the other were laid aside? what can he plead for this, but that we are not *reformed according to the mind of Christ?* as we shall heare by and by.

§. 12. But he sayes, "*We expect not that we*
p. 256. "*shall be accused of Schisme, for not esteem-*
ing

ing our selves made members of a parti-
" *cular Church, against our wills, by buy-*
" *ing, or hiring an habitation within such*
" *a precinct of ground.* Surely they were once *esteemed* (and did esteeme themselves) to be *members* of those particular Churches (whether with or *without* their wills I know not) where they were borne or dwelt, and must either be of such or none. And is it not so, for the most part in *New England*? are not their *Townes* and *Churches* commensurate? was not the Church of *Jerusalem*, and *Corinth*, so called from the places? True it is (which was said by the *Assembly-Divines*) " *that living*
" *in Parishes, is not sufficient to make a*
" *man a member of a particular Church, a*
" *Turke or Pagan may do so:* but all *Church-members* in a *Parish*, are *members* of that Church, till they *remove* their habitations. Suppose there were but *one* such *parish*, must not all Christians, be of that, unlesse they may be of none? But they adde; " *All that dwell*
" *in a Parish, and constantly heare the*
" *word, are not yet to be admitted to the*
" *Sacrament, which* (*sayes he*) *excludes*
" *them from being* fideles, *or Church-*
" *members, and makes them at best, but*

"*as the* Catechumeni, *who were never*
"*accounted* members *of the Church.* I pray, were not *baptized infants*, and *youth's*, members of the Church? yet were not they (nor are in *their Churches*) admitted to the *Lords Supper*; If those *Divines* meant it, of *unbaptised* persons (as they may) no mervaile if they were not *accounted* Church members. Yet what shall we say of *Infants* of Churchmembers, not *yet baptized*, are not they *Churchmembers*? none but an *Anabaptist* will deny it. And though the old *Catechumeni*, new come from *Gentilism*, were not accounted *Churchmembers*, yet our *Catechumen's*, Children o *Christian parents*, are to be accounted such. But we proceed.

§. 13. p. 257. He hath further to say; "*If we have*
"*been so members by our own consent, and*
"*do not continue so to bee; then this con-*
"*gregation, where we were so members,*
"*was reformed according to the mind of*
"*Christ or it was not*? We are now almost at an issue; the intimation is,
"*the ground of their separation is, that*
"*none of our Churches are reformed, ac-*
"*cording to the mind of Christ.* None of them? not at home, nor abroad?

that's

that's a sad condition. But what if they be in reforming, should they separate from such? Well, but suppose any be members of a Church reformed according to the mind of Christ? what then? "*If it were reformed, and a man* "*were a member of it, by his own volun-* "*tary consent, I confesse it may be diffi-* "*cult, how a man can leave such a Con-* "*gregation, without their consent, in* "*whose power it is to give it to him, with-* "*out giving offence to the Church of God.* That they have been *members* (and *Mi-sters* some of them) of our *Congregati-ons*, by their own free *consent*, is evident enough: That they have not *continued* so to be, is too manifest. That our Congregations some at least were *reformed*, or *reforming* according to the mind of Christ, (when they separated from us) cannot without great *injury* be denyed. What *difficulty* then is there to judge them *offenders* against that, and the *whole Church* of *England*, in leaving those Congregations, *without*, yea, against their consent, if they had *such power* over them, as he grants. But no marvel, they find no *difficulty* or *scruple*, in leaving our Congregations, without *any leave*; when they can and do leave

own

own Congregations, (*without* or *against* their leave, to which, (they say) they have been *married*, and may no more justly *divorce* them, than a man may his wife, (except for *fornication*) and only for a greater *portion*, or *preferment*. But I must *professe*, I know no *such power*, that any Church hath, to *engage* into, and enforce such an *explicite* consent, or to deny *leave* to any member, upon just causes, to depart, without their leave. He said before, "*All men must admit it free for* "*a man, to choose where he will fix his ha-* "*bitation*. Which if just reasons call him to, either he must *leave* that Congregation, (as too *distant* from his habitation) or else tye himself to much *inconveniance*, to enjoy the Ordinances of God there, which he may with ease, and as much *profit*, enjoy at his own door. If this be not an *enslaving* of Christians to the *prudential* (if not *politick*) *institutions* of men, and manifest prejudice to the *liberty*, wherein Christ hath made them free, I know not what is. But the best is, their people do not believe any such *difficulty* to remove from their Churches, but take the *leave*, without *humbly desiring* it (which he requires) without their consent, and run readily

to

to the *Anabaptists*, and *Quakers* Societies.

Yea the Dr. is as ready to *indulge* this §. 14.
Liberty, as they to take it; (it may be, he may get the more *disciples* by it). For as he gives any man the *liberty*, to desert the *communion* of any *society*, if it be not *reformed* according to the mind of Christ, *p.* 269; So he allowes him this *liberty*, upon his *own light*. Hear him speak, "*As the not giving a mans self up,* P. 259.
"*to any way, and submitting to any esta-*
"*blishment pretended, or pleaded to be of*
"*Christ, which he hath not light for, is*
"*no Schism, &c; So no more can a mans*
"*peaceable relinquishment of the ordinary*
"*communion in and Church, in all its rela-*
"*tions, to join with another be so esteemed.*
Where first he seems to me to be a very *Sceptick* in his way of *Independency*; or to *gratifie* all the *Sects*, *Quakers* and all, with a *Toleration*. For why should they be denyed the *liberty*, of their own *light*, more than others? to *judge* what is, or is not, according to the mind of Christ, and to follow it accordingly, *submit* to, and *desert*, what way they *suppose* to be but pretended as the way of *Christ*. And why should they be denyed to make use of their *liberty*? without such

According to that light, which men have rectified.

P. 46.
§. 26.

hum-

humble asking leave of the Congregation. But I would make bold to ask one question: "*Whether does he indeed believe* "*his own way, to be the only true way of* "*Christ*, (*for he hath instituted but one* "*way*) *having run from, and renounced* "*all other waies of Religion, in this Nation.* If so, is not every man bound to come into it? and not upon any conceited *new light*, to relinquish it? If not, then why doth he *encourage* men to leave the *Presbyterian way*, which, for ought he knows, may be the way of Christ? But whats this to the purpose? We do not say it is a *Schism* for a single person, upon good reasons, to remove from one Congregation to another; (as because he can not *edifie* so well by one *Minister* as another (provided it be not an *itching ear*, that causes it, as oft it is,) or in some *necessary worldly respects*) if he do it *peaceably*, without *contempt* of the Congregation, and *Minister*, from whom he departs; and not setting up a *new Church* against them: In this case, we leave all our members free. It is not, *actually not communicating* with a true Church, but *renouncing communion*, that we think makes the *Schismatick*.

But

But what if he discovers, "*That some* §. 15.
"*of the principles of the Churches constituti-* p. 261.
"*on are not according to the mind of Christ,*
"*which renders the communion of it, by*
"*scruples, &c. not so useful to him, as if*
"*it were right: and that he hath declared*
"*his judgment and dissatisfaction; if no*
"*Reformation ensue &c.* The question is whether he *sees*, or *conceits* he sees some *errors* in a Church *constitution*; and then whether every *want* or *redundancy* in a *Church constitution*, necessitates a *separation*? But he takes no notice, but peremptorily determines the case; "*That*
"*person I say is doubtlesse at liberty to dis-*
"*pose of himself, as to particular Church*
"*communion, to his own best advantage.* This is *liberality* enough, and Dictator-like spoken. Does not this *open a door* to all *confusion*, in *Church* and *State*? and give every man (all as well as any) *liberty*, if they judge any thing amiss in Church or State, to turn *Reformers*, if *Superiours cannot*, or *will not Reform it*. He asks this question; "*Suppose the Congregation* p. 262.
"*whereof a man is a member, is not refor-*
"*med, will not, or cannot reform it self,*
"*whether in this case is it Schism, for any*
"*number of men to reform themselves, by*
"*reducing the practise of worship to its ori-*
"*ginal*

"*ginal institution, though the minor part?*" Put it home, in a *State* or *National* Church as that of the Jews; was it lawful for a *few men*, when *State* and *Church* were all corrupted, to go and *reform* both, because they who had the power in their hand, either *could* not, or *would* not reform? I will not *exemplifie* it nearer home; but I think I may safely say, this is an *Anabaptistical Munster* principle, at the bottome; and say no more.

§. 16. p. 263. Yet he hath Scripture for it; "*I will "boldly say, this Schisme is commanded by "the Holy Ghost*": What *Schisme* means he? that a man or men shall *separate* from the *corruptions* of a Church, or reform themselves from the sins of the place? that is certainly commanded. But for that man, or a *minor number* of men, in a *stated National* Church, to take upon them to *reform* the Church, was never given them in command. But see the proofs; The first is, 1 *Tim.* 6. 5. "*From such withdraw* (or separate) "*thy self*. But this is a great *mistake*, for as the *advice* is given to a *Minister*, and not a *private* member; so it is not to *withdraw* from a Church, that hath some *corruptions* in it, but from such *false Teachers*

chers, as its likely were of no Church. The second is, 2 *Tim.* 3. 5. *From such turn away.* Who must do it? *Timothy* a *Minister.* Again, from whom? from such loose *professors*, or *false Teachers*, as *creep into houses*, and there make *divisions*, and then *lead captive* their *Proselytes*, from the *communion* of the Church: Surely those were not of *Timothy's* Congregation, for then he would have bidden him, not only *turn away* from them, but *turn them* out of the Church, by a just *censure.* The last is, *Hos.* 4. 15. which is only to *dissuade* those that were of the true Church, from joyning with *Idolaters*; "*come not to Gilgal, neither* "*go up to Bethaven, &c.* for to the former part of the verse hath it, "*Though* "*thou Israel play the harlot, yet let not Ju-* "*dah offend, &c.*

But he speaks with some *Indignation*, "*Is this yoak laid upon me by Christ, that* "*to go along with the multitude where I* "*live that hate to be reformed, I must for-* "*sake my duty, and despise the priviledges* "*that he hath purchased for me, with his* "*own blood? Is this an unity of Christus* "*institution, that I must for ever assume* "*my self with wicked and profane men,* "*in the worship of God, &c.* This sounds §. 17. p. 263.

much of the *Pharisee*; the *multitude*, the *wicked*, and *prophane*. But suppose first, the Church is so corrupt, as *Israel* of old, or *Rome* of later years, then God commands, "*Come out of her, O my people, and be not partaker of her sins.* But suppose a Church *found* in *fundamentalls* of *doctrine* and *worship*, suffering some *lesse* corruptions, or mixture in her communion; and perhaps in such a condition, as it either cannot, or will not reform it self; and there is no other *Church* easily to joyn with? Will he now *leap* out of Church and neglect all *Ordinances*, because of some *prophane* and *wicked* men? Christ himself did not so: or will he go and *separate* into another Church? If so, as it *justifies* the *Brownists* in former times, in their *separation* (condemned by his own party) so it *condemns* the pious *Nonconformists*, who did not so. Though they could not *communicate* in some Ordinances, yet they never *withdrew* communion from the Church, into *separate* Congregations. It is no duty of *Christs imposing*, no *priviledge* of his *purchasing*, either to *deprive* a mans self of his *Ordinances* for other *mens sins*, or to set up a *new Church*, in opposition to a true Church, as no

Church

Church rightly constituted, for want of some *Reformation*, in lesser matters. And does not this speech insinuate so much; "*That our Churches are such as* "*hate to be reformed; and tolerate pro-* "*phane and wicked men, when it is our* "*grief that we have not power enough to* "*reform or eject them.* They might have stayed till they had found we had *hated* to be reformed; or till they had given us a *better Model* of a Church-state (which never yet, we could by our utmost *importunity*, obtaine from them) and then they had had some *colour* for their separation.

And yet see how *tender* he is of our Churches *honour* and *peace*; "*I speak not* "*this, as for a principle, that it is the duty* "*of every man to separate from that* "*Church, wherein evil men are tolerated, &c.* It is too much that he said; "*every* "*man is at liberty in such a case, to dis-* "*pose of himself, as to Church-communi-* "*on p.* 261. though he plead it not his duty. And here again he says; "*When* "*a Church is overborne by a multitude* "*of wicked and prophane, so that it cannot,* "*or will not reform it self, a Believer is so* "*far at liberty, that he may desert the com-* "*munion of that society, without the least* §. 18. p. 264.

"*guilt of Schism.* He grants him here too little; for though he *desert* the *purest* Church on earth, yet he hath told him, *separation* from any, or all *Churches* is no *Schism.* But suppose the *Officers* of a true Church *tolerate* wicked men in their Communion (which is the grand plea of *Separatists*, a *mixt* Communion) this is taken by them as the *duty* of private members, they *sin* in that Communion if they *separate* not: They will not *bear* with such a *toleration* in our Churches, (though they do in their own) but hold it their duty to leap out of our Churches & *practise* accordingly. It were happy for us, if they had shewed some of that *love* and *forbearance*, (he so oft speaks of, and requires of us for themselves) to our *Churches*, and not *reserved* it all for their own.

§. 19. p. 265. The Church of *Corinth* had as many disorders in it, as some of ours, from which the *Apostle* advises no man to *separate*. He answers, 1. "*The Church* "*of* Corinth *was a true Church, instituted* "*according to the mind of Christ, and was* "*not fallen from this priviledge by any mis-* "*carriage: which wholly differences the* "*case.* Why, so were the *Churches* of *England* (in some of their own confessions

ons) *true Churches* planted according to the *mind* of Christ, and needed onely a *Reformation*, and reducing to their first *constitution*. But he plainly *insinuates*, they are no *true Churches* now, by reason of some *miscarriages* under the *Papacy*; He spake more openly, *p.* 243. "*We are yet far from being cleerly delivered* "*from the Romane Apostacy*; *Rome* is much beholden to him, for this *courtesie*, but not the *Church* of *England*. And as for those *miscarriages*, they were long ago, the *grossest* of them, much *amended* by the first *Reformation*, and more by the *second*, and are endeavouring yet a further *Reformation*, if some had not *obstructed* it. However, *Corinth* had (we suppose) greater *disorders* in it, than are to be found (blessed be God) in many of our *Congregations*; why then, do they fly, and *separate* from us? and that before they had used all or any of the *remedies* of our cure, which he requires first to be done, in the next page. But hear the conclusion; "*Yet this I say, had the* *p.* 266. "*Church of* Corinth *continued in that* "*condition, &c. it had been the duty (nay* "*that, the duty) of every Saint of God in* "*that Church, to withdraw from it, &c.* Its strange that the *Apostle* did not in-

form those *Saints*, of this *liberty* or *duty* there, or elsewhere. It were an hard case for *private Christians* to be made guilty of the sins of a *Church*, where evil men are *tolerated*, or some of unsound *opinions*, are suffered; having (I mean) done their own *duty*, for amending or ejecting them, according to *Matth.* 18. 15. *&c.*

§. 20. p. 267. Its true, that *Austin* was mistaken in asserting "*that* Eliah *and* Elisha, *com-* "*municated with the Israelites in their* "*worship*, which was most *Idolatrous*; unlesse he meant that *Elijah* sacrificed once among them, at his *contest* with *Baals* Priests; or that both of them were *partakers* of the *Sacrament* of *Circumcision* with them, they and theirs, if they had any issue: But its as true, that our blessed *Saviour* did communicate with the *Jewes* in all the true *worship* of God; though the *Doctrine* was much corrupted, and the *worship* also by will-worship, by the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*; only protesting against those corruptions, he *communicated* in the rest, without *sin*; and neither himself *separated* from that Church, nor *advised* others so to do; (though shortly to begin the foundation of *a new Church way*) but rather

ther *advised* to continue in it. "*The* "*Scribes and Pharisees sit in* Moses *chaire*, "*whatsoever they say unto you do it*, &c.

We are now drawing to an *issue*, of this discourse of *Schism*, in the ordinary *Acception* of the Word, to signifie, *A breach of union*; which he allows to pass, (such is his *condiscension* and *confidence*,) and yet avoid the charge of *Schism*. Thus he saies, "*We have broken no band of uni-* "*ty, no order instituted by* Christ, *we have* "*causlessly deserted no station, that ever we* "*were in, according to his mind*, &c. which how *true* it is, and whether he do not hereby *asperse* all our *Churches* to be no *true* Churches of *Christs institution*, let the *Reader indifferent*, by what hath been said, be Judge. "*That on pure grounds of* "*conscience, we have withdrawn, or do* "*withhold our selves from partaking in* "*some waies, engaged into, upon meer* "*grounds of prudence, we acknowledge*. Whether they have in their *separation* from us, gone upon *pure* and *meere* grounds of *conscience*, God and their own hearts must determine the business. The world is too apt to judge otherwise upon some *suspicious practises* of theirs. And suppose they have withdrawn themselves from some waies of *prudence*,

§. 21. p. 268.

in some of our *Churches*, (I suppose he means it of *Classical subordinations*) yet they have withdrawn themselves also, from some *Congregations* (not so united) that have only the *pure Institutions* of Christ; and that may bring the charge of *Schism* upon them. But have not they also gone upon some *meere grounds* of *prudence* (or policy)? Is there any *Institution* of Christ, that they must *gather* members out of true *Churches* to make a purer *Church* (if so it be)? Or is there any *Institution* of Christ, that a *Minister*, who is *married* to a people, (as they hold) should *relinquish* it, for a place of greater *eminency* or *preferment*? Or that people must be *tyed* to their *Pastour*, by an *explicite Covenant*, not to depart without *their leave humbly desired*? Or (to add no more) Is there any *Institution* of Christ in express words, that *Churches* particular must send their *Delegates* to an *Assembly*, to determine matters of *common* concernment? which he granted above. These, and some more of their *known waies*, the world takes to be but *products* of humane *prudence*; and he may do well to shew their *Institutions*.

§. 22. Yet have we more of this *confidence*,

From

"*From what hath been said, it appears, in* "*what a fair capacity, notwithstanding* "*any principle or practise owned by us, we* "*are to live peaceably, and to exercise all* "*fruits of love, to the otherwise minded, if* "*we may be permitted to serve God accor-* "*ding to our light.* And must not the *Quakers* and the rest, be permitted to serve God according to *their light* also? But it matters not in what *capacity* they are to do those things named; let us see the fruits of it. Does not their *way* break the *peace* of all our Churches? Hath it not been the *door* to let in all the *errors, heresies, blasphemies* England groans under? Do not all sorts of *sects*, (being all *Independent*, and none to controle them) exercise all the *fruits* of *hatred* toward us? look upon us, and carry themselves towards us, as their *greatest enemies* as no *Ministers*, no *Churches*, scarce as *Christians*? Hath not he himself in this book, *unministred* our *ministers*, *unmembred* our *members*, *unchurcht* our *Churches*? Doth he give us *words*, when we see such deeds?

It is commonly, and truly objected, §. 23.
There is a difference between *Reforming* p. 269.
of Churches, already *gathered*; and *raising*

of Churches out of meer *materials*. Surely this is evident enough, in *raising* of a Church out of *Infidels*, and reducing a *corrupted Church* to its first *institution*. This he first sayes, *concerns not the business*. What's the *English* of this, if he would speak out? Why, the truth is, *We have no Churches*, and they are not in *repairing* an old house, but building a new from the ground, But hear him say something; "1. *I know no other Reformation of any Church, or any thing in it, but the reducing of it, to its primitive institution, &c.* We say so too, grant us to be *Churches*; *Reformation* of a Churh, or any thing in it, presupposes there is a *Church* existent, though perhaps *rotten* and *ruinous*. But these *New builders* will gather a *Church* out of no *Churches*, and begin a new one. It had been happy for old *England*, if they had all gone into *New England*, and laid the *foundation* of their *Churches* amongst the *Indians*, and not to *build* upon other mens *foundations*; and then tell us, they are building of *spick* and *span* new Churches. And does not this hold forth, that we are no *Churches*, and our *members* no members of a Church, till *admitted* into theirs? But yet more (to discover his very heart)

"*When*

"*When any society, or combination of men* p. 270.
"(*whatever hitherto it hath been esteemed*) *is not capable of such a reduction, and renovation, I suppose I shall never provoke any wise and sober person, if I profess I cannot look on such a society, as a Church of Christ.* Is not, *Reader*, this at once, to *unchurch* all the Churches of *England* since the Reformation? for its known, during the Reign of the *Prelates*, they were not *capable* of that *Reduction*. And what capacity our Churches are now in, for that *Reduction*; partly by want of *power*, and assistance from the *Magistrate*; without which some *dare* not set upon a Reformation, for fear of a *præmunire*: partly by our *Divisions* amongst our selves, *fomented* by he knows whom; he cannot but see, as well as we lament. But if we must be *denyed* to be *Churches*, because we are not in such a *capacity*, and cannot do all we would to reform them, we are in a *sad* condition. What if a *Church* want some things she had at her first *institution*, perhaps of no great *concernment*, (or be it great) but either by the *prohibition* of the present powers, or the *opposition* of a prevalent *party*, it is not now capable of *Reduction*, to its primitive *Institution*;

Will

will he look upon this *society*, as no *Church* of Christ, and think, *no wise or sober man* in that *society*, or other where, will be *provoked* to anger, if not to indignation? And so much the *more*, when as upon this ground, we are in danger to *lose* all our best members; for so he advises, "*thereupon, I shall advise those therein, who have a due right to the privileges, purchased for them by Christ, as to Gospel Administrations, to take some other peaceable course, to make themselves partakers of them.* That is, to *come out from among them*, and join themselves to some *Independent* Congregation.

§. 24. p. 270. To satisfie the former objection, is out of his way at present; for he tells us, "*He must manage principles, which in this Discourse he hath not been accustomed to draw forth or to improve.* I cannot but make it my *earnest request*, (and so I think will many more) that he would be pleased to do us the favour, to bring forth, and *manage* those *principles*, to their utmost *clearness*, and *strength*; (which this discourse of mine and some former, have given him just occasion to produce) that we might be once *blessed*, with the sight of that *Model* of their

way,

way, so often *desired*, so often *promised*, and as often unfaithfully *denyed*. We professe our selves *utterly unsatisfied*, with what hath yet been vouchsafed us to see. But he will tell us briefly "*what are the things of great and weightie* "*importance, which must come under de-* "*bate, before a clear account can be given* "*of the case stated in the Objection.* Before we hear them, I cannot but say they have dealt the more *unbrotherly* with us, (to say no more) and all the *Reformed* Churches abroad, in setting up their *way* of *new Churches*, and never discover to us sufficiently, the *ground* of their so doing: Let him look back to what he said, p. 7. *The parties litigant, &c.* But we shall attend him for the particular *Heads*.

"1. *The true nature of an Instituted* §. 25.
"*Church, under the Gospel, as to the matter,* "*form, and all other necessary constitutive* "*causes is to be investigated and found out.*

To which I say, 1. This (I thought) had *Are there* been fully done; if not by all *Reformed* *any con-* Churches, yet by those of *New England*, *stitutive* who have done what they could, to *clear causes*, up their way: The *constituting causes* (say *besides* they) are *matter* and *form*; the *matter*, *Matter* *visible Saints*; the *form*, an *explicite Co-* & *F*

venant,

venant, of all the members. But they have been told, they have *contradicted* themselves, by requiring an *explicite* consent, and yet confessing an *implicite* to be sufficient, and this to be in our Churches, and yet separated from us. 2. I had thought his *definition* of an *instituted* particular Church, given us above, had held out all the constituting causes of such a Church: "*It is a society of men, called by* "*the word to the obedience of the Faith in* "*Christ, and joynt performance of the wor-* "*ship of God, in the same individual Ordi-* "*nances, according to the order prescribed* "*by Christ.* Such *societies* are ours, in all the particular *ingredients* of this definition, as was shewed above. All that can be objected, is but to the last particle, "*according to the order by Christ pre-* "*scribed*, which is the *question* between us, & must not be begged, on either side, but proved, and it concerns him to shew the *contrary*. What *Ordinance* do we want? or, what have we of *humane* addition? And as for our *joynt consent*, (though we have it *implicitely*, yet sufficiently) it is not in his *definition*, which yet is one of the *constituting* causes of their *Churches*; If then the definition of such a Church, be as *applicable* to our Chur-

ches,

ches, as to his own, we are true institutted Churches; and whether they be *Schismaticks*, in renouncing *communion* with us, let the whole *Christian* Church be Judge: And I go on to the next.

2. "*The nature and form of such a* p. 26.
"*Church, is to be exemplyfied from the*
"*Scripture, and the stories of the first Chur-*
"*ches, before sensibly infested with the poy-*
"*son of Apostacy, which ensued.* This hath abundantly been done, by the *Assembly*, and other *Divines*, (though he is not pleased to take notice of it) and we dare joyn issue with him, in this debate, when ever he will begin it. 3. "*The* p. 271.
"*extent of the Apostacy under Antichrist,*
"*as to the ruining of instituted* Churches,
"*making them to be* Babylon, *and their*
"*worship fornication, is duly and carefully*
"*to be examined. Here lyes our disor-*
"*der; hence our darknesse, &c. though we*
"*may arise, we shall not easily shake our*
"*selves out of the dust.* I suppose he does not mean this *last* of his *own Churches*; they are not only *risen*, but have shaken off the *very dust* of that *Apostacy*; I shall not contradict him for his own *particular* Church, because I am a *stranger* to it: but of some of the *Churches* of the same constitution, I dare confidently affirm, they are fallen again into the old *Apo-*

stacy

sisacy, in matter of *Doctrine*; and have more *dust* upon their garments than many of ours have. But we shall be *content* to put our selves upon the search; and if it may appear, that yet we retain any thing of that *Apostacy*, we shall promise faithfully to relinquish it. But I am very *jealous*, he expects a *finer* and a higher *Reformation*, than we dare look for, in in this world, (till *Christ* himself come to Reign visibly on earth, as some do expect he will ere long) *viz:* by *Revelation* of the *Spirit*. He speaks suspiciously this way; p. 42. "*When the order, spiri-*"*tuality, beauty, and glory of the Church of* "*Christ shall return, &c. these disputes,* "*will have an issue.* And again, p. 70. "*When God shall have reduced his Churches* "*to their primitive purity, &c.* And once more p. 200. "*So soon as Christs Churches* "*are shaken out of the dust of* Babylon, "*with his glory shining on them. &c.*

§. 27. p. 271. 4. "*By what way and means, God began* "*anew and kept alive his elect, in their se-*"*veral generations, when Antichristian* "*darkness covered the earth, supposing an* "*intercision of instituted Ordinances, so far* "*as to make a nullity in them, as to what* "*was of simple institution &c.* he may do well to enquire and resolve us. He can-

not but know, that there are many learned men, that will not grant him his "*supposition of an intercision of all instituted* "*Ordinances, so far as to make a nullity* "*in them.* And something hath been said to this above, which he may do well to consider. The sum is this, "*That if* "*there was an inter intercision, and so a* "*nullity of all instituted Ordinances, it was* "*impossible to fix the Tabernacle of God* "*with men again, without a miracle or* "*some Divine Revelation.* As for the *Bohemian* brethren, concluding the whole *Papacy*, to be purely *Antichristian*, it is not a *singular* conceit, for all *reformed Churches* are of that opinion, They distinguish the *Papacy*, (which is as a scab or *Leprosie* to the hand) from the *Church* of *Rome*; making the former purely *Antichristian*, but not the latter. But as (perhaps erroneously; for *Luther* and his associats did not so) they could not allow of the *Ordination of Ministers*, by any in *communion* with them: So they were "*persuaded of a necessity of continu-* "*ing that Ordinance, in a way of succession*, which whether our *Author* does, let him declare, when he takes into consideration the *Bohemian* cases. They sent to the *Greek* and *Armenian* Churches, to

have

have *Ordination* from them; (therefore they did not believe there was an *Intercision* of all *instituted Ordinances*) and when they saw their way was perhaps, as *superstitious*, another way; having no *satisfaction* there, they took their case to be extraordinary, and so chose themselves *Elders*, and set them apart by fasting and prayer, *&c.* where note a double difference; Their case was extraordinary, there were no *Ministers* to ordain them, but our *brethren* were ordained, by lawful *Ministers*, or might have found *enough* to do it, if they had not been *ordained*; but they *renounced* what they had, and took it again of the people. 2. The *Bohemians* did it but once, *primâ vice*; but afterwards kept up *Ordination* by *Ministers*, and not by the people: but ours still continue it, by the people. I might add a third, but I forbear.

§. 28. p. 272. 5. What was the *way* of the *first Reformation*, in this Nation, and what *principles* those *godly* men proceeded on? how far what they did, may be *satisfactory* to our consciences? *&c.* It is confessed on both sides, they did *begin* well, but by the *badnesse* of the times were not able to finish their work. But how *unsatisfactory* their *ways* and *principles* are:

to

to our *brethrens* consciences, to concurr with them, their *pract se* does demonstrate; walking *contrary* to them, in *Reformation* of the *Church*; not *repairing* the old, but *founding* and building up a new Church, and renouncing their *principles*. 6. "*Whether ordinary Officers be* "*before or after the Church, and whether* "*a Church-state is preserved, in the preser-* "*vation of Officers forraign to that Church;* "*or the Office be preserved, and consequen-* "*ly the Officers in the preservation, and* "*constitution of a Church*, is the last thing of *importance* to be considered. For the first, whether *ordinary Officers* were before the Church, hath been discussed elsewhere. *Instances* may be given on both sides; Sometimes the *Church*, is before the *ordinary Officer viz.* when one dying another *succeeds* to that *Church* in his room: Sometimes the *ordinary Officer* is before the Church, as in the *gathering* of a Church out of *Heathens*. Mr. *Eliot* in *New England* is an *ordinary Officer*, he converts and *baptizes* many *Indians*, and gathers them into a Church: I hope they do not look for *extraordinary Officers* now as the *Seekers* of late did. I know his exception above; This is *in ecclesia constituenda*, not *in ecclesia constituta*: but

I shall give him another *instance*, suppose a *Minister* comes young to a people, lives till all the *ancient* people he found there be *deceased*; All that remain in the Parish, were *admitted* by him into the Church, by *baptism*; here the *Officer*, is before the Church, in a Church *constituted*. But this is as very a *nilitie*, as which is first, the *Hen* or the *Egg*. I perceive what he aimes at in the second question; "*Whether a Church-state is* "*preserved in the Officer, or the Officer in* "*the constitution of a Church*. He, upon his *principles* must hold the *latter* part: for he holds, that no man is an *Officer*, out of his *own* Church; if either the *Church* be destroyed, or he be *removed* from it, he *ceases* to be an *Officer*, whence it follows, that 1. No *Minister* quà *Minister*, can convert the Heathens. 2. That if all *Church-state* be lost, it cannot be raised up by an *Officer*, who is *forraign* to that Church, as he speaks here. The *result* is, according to his principles, the *Office* first, and then the *Officers* inclusively, is preserved in the *constitution* of a Church: As how? A *company* of single *Christians*, may meet, and joyn themselves in a *Church society*; which done they may, out of themselves (for other

See pag. 199.

They who will not be contented, &c.

So the Anabaptists, Confess. art. 36.

Churches

Churches or *Ministers*, are *forraign* to to them) chuse them *Officers*, and set them *apart* by *fasting* and *Prayer*: This is pretty, and never *exemplyfied* in an ordinary case, till t'other day. But he forgot the main *businesse*; that he supposes all *Church-state lost*; but these *Christians* joyning together are supposed to be *baptized*; which is a *part* of a Church-state, and without which they could never make a *Church*, much lesse an *Officer*, as was discoursed above: To *raise* up and *revive* a *decayed* Church-state, in an ordinary way, there is but one of these waies; either a *Minister* in Office must *baptize* converted Heathens, and so make them a Church; or a company of *baptized* persons when no *Minister* is to be found, must for once, *joyn* and chuse themselves *Officers* (which comes near to an extraordinary case, and not among us now to be made use of): but yet still, the *Church-state* depends upon the *Minister* originally, that *baptized* them; and not upon those people, supposing them *unbaptized*. But more of this above. When he takes those *important* things, he speaks of, into his discussion, let him take those things, by me pro-

pounded, into consideration also, as things of some *importance*.

§. 29. The task undertaken is now at its is-
p. 273. sue; The *miscarriages* that he speaks of, "*as ensuing for want of a due and right apprehension of the thing (that is Schism) we have been now long exercised in the consideration of*, may with no more *ease* than *truth*, be *rolled* back upon himself. "*It is not impossible, that he may begin to apprehend, that he hath been too hasty in judging our Churches to be none, and himself and his party no Schismaticks in separating from them, as no Churches*: And it may perhaps appear to him, that he is the man, "*that is more ready to charge highly, than able to make good his charge*. The *Schisms* that have ensued, "*by their causlesse imputation, of a no-Church-state among us*, and setting up *new Churches*, is too well known. And being in one *fault* of *renouncing communion* with us, he hath now *confirmed* himself, and his party in it, by a *new*, but *false notion* of *Schism*, which none of his *Predecessors*, had the hap to *stumble* upon. I might *parallel* the rest, in that *Section*, but I forbear, and leave it to the Reader.

2. In

2. In these *differences*, about the *way* of *Religion*, we have endeavoured, "*to* "*drive them to their Rise and Spring*, and "find *Schism* to be as *formidable* in its first *Original*, in respect of its *terminus à quo*; as in the *streams*, though much *increased* by many generations, in regard of the *terminus ad quem*. And I cannot but observe, how he seems to *extenuate* the crime of *Schism* (before aggravated) by his *comparisons*. *Schism* at its first rise, and Scripture notion, (if he *mistake* not) was but a *little Spring*; but swelled to a great breadth, by mens *disputations* about it. Hear his *swelling* words, "*What* "*a flood of abominations doth Schism seem* "*to be, as rolling down to us through the* "*writings of* Cyprian, Austin, *and* Optatus *of old, &c. Go to its rise, and you will* "*find it quite another thing*. As if he had said, *Schism* is not so *formidable* a thing, as it's made (by all but himself) if you would but take it for some *petty differences*, *within one Assembly*; the charge of it is not so dreadful as some would make it. For he adds; "*Whilst* "*I have an uncontroulable faithful witness*; "*that I do not willingly break any unity of* "*the institution of Christ. Whilst I di-* "*sturb not the Peace of that particular*

§. 30. p. 275.

p. 276.

p. 27

"*Church, whereof by my own consent, I am*
"*a member; nor do raise up nor continue*
"*in any causless differences, with them, or*
"*any of them with whom I walk in the*
"*fellowship & order of the Gospel; whilst I*
"*labour to exercise faith towards the Lord*
"*Jesus Christ, and love towards all the*
"*Saints, I do keep the unity which is of the*
"*appointment of Christ, and let men*
"*say, from principles utterly foreign*
"*to the Gospel, what they please, or can, to*
"*the contrary, I am no Schismatick.* That is, though by *raising differences*, I set all the *Churches* of *England* on fire, I am no *Schismatick*, if I disturb not the *peace* of my *own particular* Church, How true and *reasonable* the particulars of his *enumeration* are, let the impartial *Reader* judge.

§. 31. p. 277. 3. I still return him his own words, with a very little change; "*Perhaps the*
"*discovery which hath been made, how*
"*much he and his party are concerned, in*
"*that charge of Schism, upon them, which*
"*is the greatest ball of strife this day in*
"England, (*with respect to the Church*)
"*may be a most effectual engine or meanis to*
"*reconcile them that truly fear God, though*
"*engaged in several ways.* I can heartily say *Amen* to this: but yet must add what

follows

follows, "*I have not any great hope of* "*much success on this account, whilst men* "*are fore-stalled with prejudices, and have* "*their affections engaged thereunto. &c.*" But all our *hearts* are in the hand of God. *&c.*

4. To conclude; "*What vain janglings* §. 32.
"*men are endlessly engaged in, who will lay* "*their own false hypotheses, (such as the* "*Authors new notion of Schisme is) as a* "*ground of further proceeding, is in part evi-* "*dent by what hath been delivered.* Hence is that *doughtie dispute*, 1. Which is first, the *Hen* or the *Egg*, the *Church*, or its *Officers?* 2. Whether a man may be a *Schismatick*, that is not a *member* of a *particular* Church? 3. Whether the *member* of one Church, may *partake* of the *Sacraments* in another Church, and that of the same constitution? 4. Whether the *child* of a *scandalous* person, may be baptized by the *Minister* of that Church? 5. Whether our Churches be true Churches, our members, true members; because not gathered by an *explicite Covenant?* Which as it was never doubted of by *Non-conformists* at home, nor any *Reformed* Churches abroad, till *Brownists* arose; so it may be concluded from his own words, in his conclusion.

p. 279. "*He is a member of a particular* Church, "*who having been in a due order, joyned* "*thereunto, hath neither voluntarily deser-* "*ted it, nor been judicially ejected out of it.* But I assume, The *members* of our *particular* Churches, have been in a due order joyned thereunto, and neither *voluntarily* have *deserted* them, nor been *judicially* ejected out of them; Therefore, they are true *members* of particular Churches; and consequently, our *Churches*, are true Churches; and by a further *consequence*, "*They that raise differences in them, and* "*draw disciples from them, and renounce* "*communion with them, say they what they* "*please or can to the contrary, are Schisma-* "*ticks*; Quod erat demonstrandum.

AN

AN APPENDIX TO *The former Discourse of* Schism;

Shewing, the inconstancy of the Dr. and the inconsistency of his former and present Opinions.

SInce my finishing of the former §. 1.
Discourse there came happily to my hands, a Book of the *Learned Doctors*, entitled, "*The duty* "*of Pastors, and people distinguished*, licented, and highly commended by the Reverend, and *judicious* Mr. *Joseph Caryl*, as, "*Written with much clearnesse of* "*judgment, and moderation of Spirit*. put forth in the year 1644. By comparing whereof, with this of his, of *Schism*, I perceive, that wise and judicious men, are still but men, subject to mistakes; and therefore had need of some of the *policy* or *prudence*, of the five *Apologists*; not to be too *peremptory* in their *new opinions*,

Apol. Ne- *pag.* 1

nions, or *wayes*, not too presumptuous in *despising* others proceedings, but to reserve to themselves a *latitude*, and to keep some *casements* open, to take in *New light*. This our Reverend *Authour* hath exemplyfied, to be necessary for himself, to make use of, as well as others of his present *Independent way*; or else he will be concluded, to *contradict* himself; and in many things to make good the Apostles *Dictum*, *ἀνὴρ δίψυχος, ἀκατάστατος ἐν πάσαις ταῖς ὁδοῖς αὐτοῦ*. And yet, had he changed to the *better*, from errour to *Truth*, the thing had been not only justly *excusable*, but truly *commendable*, and might have been salved by a *Tract* of *Retractations* (as *August in* sometime did) without any prejudice to his *Reputation*. But to run from opinion to opinion, from way to way, from *truth* to errour, (as many have done) not only to *contrariety*, but to *contradiction* also; and take no notice of the difference of *Judgment*, and *inconstancy* of opinions and waies, is too palpable a discovery of an *unsettled* Spirit, that knows not where to *fix*. All the *hope* is that if their *new Notions*, & waies be really discovered, & *ingenuously* by them acknowledged to be *erroneous*, they that can change from *truth*, to errour, may in Gods good time (which

Jam. 1. 8.

which is very rare) change back again from errour to truth. Which wishing that the Dr. and his party may do; I shall only present to him, some few of his *former thoughts* to shew him how *dissonant* they are to his later undertakings.

In this Tract, his main design is, to discover, the *distance* between the *Pastors* and their people; "*that the sacred vocation* §. 2.
"*ling may retain its ancient dignity and* pag. 2.
"*the people of God not deprived of their* "*Christian liberty.* For in former times, he tells us, "*Some would have all Christians to be almost Ministers; others* "*none but Ministers to be Gods Clergy:* "*Those would give the people the Keys;* "*these use them to lock them out of the* "*Church; The one ascribing to them primarily all Ecclesiastical power for the* "*ruling of the Congregation, the other* "*abridging them of spiritual duties, for* "*the building up of their own souls; as* "*though there were no habitable earth be-* "*twixt the valley, (I had almost said the pit)* "*of Democratical confusion, and the rock* "*of Hierarchical tyranny.* Who these parties were, needs no *comment* to de-"clare; only it would be observed, whether our *Author* be not since fallen into that very *pit of Democratical confusion*,

by

by flying from the rock of *Hierarchical tyranny*: I leave it to his consideration, Evident it is, that in a true *Church-state*, he sets out the *limits* of the people, that they may not under a prerence of *Christian liberty*, invade the *dignity* of the *sacred calling* of the Ministry, And much he grants to the people, both under the Law and Gospel, "*Alwaies provided that* "*they abstain from fingring the Arke, or* "*medling with those things which were ap-* "*propriated to the office of the Priests*, p. 17. or of the *Minister* p. 46. except they can shew some *extraordinary, call* or case, for their so doing: *p.* 28. of which he thus delivers his opinion, and states the question; "*In cases extraordinary, it may* "*perhaps be affirmed, that every* Christian "*is so far a Minister of the Gospel, as to* "*teach and declare the faith to others, al-* "*though he have no outward calling there-* "*unto: but onely an immediate call from* "*God.* All I say (for the change of his opinion) is, That he allows them this liberty now, in cases *ordinary*; as will appear hereafter.

§. 3. The question then will be, in cases more *than ordinary*, when a *Church* is much *degenerated*, and corrupted; what may ordinary *Christians* do then to the

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Restauration of Religion? Concerning which, his judgement was (what ever it be now) thus delivered, and rested upon; "*That in a collapsed and corrupted state of* p. 15. "*the Chuch, when the ordinary Teachers* "*are either utterly ignorant, and cannot, or* "*negligent and will not perform their duty;* "*Gifts in any one to be a Teacher, and con-* "*sent in others, by him to be taught,* "*are a sufficient warrant for the perfor-* "*mance of it*. That is, the duty of teaching or preaching. But more expresly, p. 40. "*In such a case (of Apostacy in the* "*Church) I conceive he may, nay he ought,* "*to preach and publish the truths discove-* "*red to him; neither is any other outward* "*call requisite to constitute him a Preacher* "*of the Gospel, than the consent of Gods* "*people to be instructed by him*. I shall only remember him, That as he spake this of a lay man in *Italy*, (for that is his instance) so he did not then take *Rome* to be *no Church* at all, as now he does; but a *collapsed*, and *corrupted* Church: but that by the way: That which I observe is 1. That he is not distinct enough in these Assertions; for if he mean, that in such a falling state of a Church; "*When it is* p. 16. "*ruinously declining, every one of Gods* "*servants hath a sufficient warrant to help*

"*or*

"or prevent the fall, as a common duty of "zeal and charity, in a charitative way, its not denyed by any; Its the duty of every Christian (man or woman) to publish truths revealed, to others that will hear him; as he speaks hereafter: But if he take it, in an Authoritative way, as an act of the Keys, (as a *Teacher* or *Preacher* is taken under the Gospel for an *Officer*) then its certain, that *Gifts*, and the *consent* of people to be instructed by him, is not sufficient *warrant* to make him a Preacher; And this appears, upon his own *former principles*: For being at that time a *Presbyterian* in judgement, (as we shall hear anon) he knew, & did then hold; that *Ordination* by the hands of the *Presbytery* was a requisite to make him a *Preacher*. But this he now declines, and hath *renounced* his *Ordination*; and requires now no more, but *Gifts*, and *peoples consent*, to make a man a *Minister*. 2. And that not only in a *collapsed*, or *corrupted* Church, where *Teachers* are either *ignorant* and *cannot*, or *negligent* and will not do their duty; but now, when neither of these can, without *injury*, be charged upon our *Church-state*, he requires no more than

Doing it as a charitable duty, not as out of necessary function; even as Priscilla (*a woman*) *expounded unto* Apollos *the word of God, &c. pag. 50. f.*

Gifts

Gifts and *consent*, to make a man a *Preacher* in Office. 3. Herein his *discourse* was *dark* and defective, that he allowes the people a *liberty* of *preaching*, or publishing the truths of the Gospel in such a case; but tells us not, whether such a *Preacher* be a compleat *Minister*, as to the administration of other *Ordinances* as the *Sacraments*; (not one word of that) I suppose then he did not intend so much; but now (so is he changed) he allows some that were *never ordained*, and himself, who hath *renounced* his Ordination; not onely to *preach* the Gospel, but also to administer *Sacraments* as compleat *Ministers*, in the name of Christ. Let them fear and tremble, to hear one day those questions, "*By what* "*authority do you these things? or who* "*gave you this authority?* It is a dreadfull speech of his own, *p.* 16. "*Who ever* "*doth any thing in anothers stead, not by* "*expresse patent from him, is a plain Impostor.* And yet, how many such *Impostors*, are there abroad, who take upon them, without *commission* from Christ, or *Authority* from the Church, not only to preach, but to *baptize*, and give the *Lords Supper*? I have heard a sad story of a *young* forward man, that did so, and fell

into

into great *perplexity* of mind, for so doing, and as I remember, so dyed. Many such there are, who *run* before they are sent, having neither *Gifts*, nor *consent* of people; The Lord lay it to their hearts, and to the hearts of those that *indulge* them in it, as guilty of such *usurpation* in them, and the great *contempt* of the *sacred calling* of the Ministry. Lastly, however it might be sufficient in an *extraordinary state* of a corrupted Church, to make a man a *Minister*, to have such *Gifts* and *consent* of the people; (which was all the Dr. then asserted) yet that those should be sufficient in an ordinary *Reformed Church-state*, is his *new light* and opinion; unless they can shew some *extraordinary signs* of such a *call* from God, which they cannot do: For he speaks rationally below, when he saies, "*It is*
p. 34. "*certain enough, that God never sent any*
"*one extraordinarily, instructed only with*
"*ordinary Gifts, and for an ordinary end.*
But these his *new* Preachers, have no more than *ordinary Gifts*, (some of them not so much) wherein others are their *equalls*, if not Superiors; and the *end* is no more but *ordinary*, the *conversion* of souls, and settling the *Ordinances* in purity; Then it follows, that these being

not

not *extraordinarily* sent by God, nor ordinarily *called* by the *Church*, are no better than *Impostors*, as he said afore.

§. 4. How long the Dr. hath been of that opinion, "*That the blessed Spirit of God, "is essentially and personally in every true "believer*, I cannot tell, but he speaks suspitiously, that way, as on *p.* 94, 95. and 236. of Schism; was noted above *c.* 7. §. 11. so he speaks the same language here *p.* 21. with what difference we shall observe. Thus he saies, "*As in his Incar-"nation, Christ took upon him our flesh and "blood, by the work of the Spirit; so in our "Regeneration, he bestoweth on us, his flesh "and blood, by the operation of the same "Spirit: yea so strict is this latter union, "which we have with Christ; that as the "former is truly said to be an union of two "natures into one person; so this, of many "persons into one nature: for by it we are "made partakers of the Divine nature, "2 Pet. 1. 4. becoming members of his bo-"dy, of his flesh, and of his bones*, Eph. 5. 30. "*We are so parts of him, of his mystical body, "that He and we become thereby, as it were "one Christ*, 1 Cor. 12. 12. *And the ground "of this is, because the same Spirit is in*

"him, and us: In him indeed dwelleth the "fulness of it, when it is bestowed upon us, "only by measure; but yet it is still the same "Spirit, and so makes us one with him; as "the soul of man being one, makes the whole "body within, to be but one man. These things must be taken *cum grano salis*, or else they may prove *insipid*, if not worse: As 1. Christ took upon him our nature *essentially*; but he bestows his flesh and blood upon us *spiritually* and *mystically*. 2. The union of the two natures in *Christ* was proper and *personal*, into one person *hypostatically*, as the *Soul* and *Body* in us, make one man: But the union of many *persons* with Christ, is not into one *nature* properly; but *mystically* into one *person*; we are *members* of his *body*, *flesh*, *bones*, but *mystically*; otherwise, the *union* of *many persons* into one *nature*, should be like that of Christs two *natures*, into one person hypostatically: And like unto the *union* of the three persons in the *Trinity*, into the same *nature* or *essence*, which is *incomprehensible*. 3. We are made parts of him, of his *mystical body*, that he and we become thereby, *as it were* (that is improperly and *mystically*) one Christ. 4. We are made partakers of

of the Divine nature, not *essentially* and *personally*, as Christ; but in its *graces* and *operations*: as generally all *Divines* understand it; *vanemed* by the *Spirit*, into that *Divine Image*, which we had by nature, but lost by the fall. 5. The same Spirit is indeed in Christ, and in us, but with this *assigned* difference. In him dwelleth the *fulness* of it, (*fulness of grace and truth*, Joh. 1. 14.) it is bestowed on us in *measure*. 6. This same Spirit makes us one with him, that is, still *mystically* not as the *Soul* of man being one, makes with *the body* one man; for that is hypostatically and *personally* one. The words thus expounded, and *candyed*, may passe for *Orthodox*; otherwise not to be admitted. But now in his Tract of *Sabism*, he is declined into that *Heterodox* opinion, (so judged by most and best Divines) that the *holy Spirit*, dwells *personally* and *essentially* in us. For 1. he tells us, he cannot consent, that the *Divine nature* given us, should be no more than the *new creature*. 2. That it is in *the person of the Spirit*, whereof we are by the promise made partakers, he is the Spirit his promises and in the participation of the Divine nature consists the union of

p. 94. of Schism.

pag. 95.

the Saints with Christ. 3. "*That the u-*
"*nion of the head and members is the one-*
"*ness of the Soul whereby the whole is ani-*
"*mated: and that which answers hereunto*
"*in the mystical body of Christ, is the ani-*
"*mation of the whole by his Spirit.* Now
every body knows, that the Soul is the
form of a man, and the *union* of Soul and
Body, is *personal*; So then must the *union*
of Christ, and his body, the Church, be
personal, as animated by the same *Spirit*,
if the *person* of the *holy Spirit*, be the *Soul*,
that animates the body of Christ. And
so he saies it is; "*The form of the Church*
p. 236. "*Catholick, absolutely so called, is the uni-*
"*ty with Christ, and in it self by the one Spi-*
"*rit, whereby it is animated*, I shall not
enter upon the contest at this time, (it
being a digression to the main business) its
enough to shew the *difference* of *himself*
from himself, then and now.

§. 5. We now return (after this digression)
to consider, with him, the *evidences* and
signs, of an *extraordinary vocation*, which
some of late pretend unto. There is on-
ly one thing briefly to be taken notice of
that is, "*Whether the Ministers of the Go-*
"*spel are by the Scripture to be called*
"*Priests*; which name some have arrogated
an

and ascribed to the *Clergy*: Of which he affirms peremptorily, "*The name of* p. 25.
"*Priests is no where in the Scripture attri-*
"*buted distinctly to the Ministers of the*
"*Gospel; Priests (and Prelates) are a sort*
"*of Church Officers, whom Christ never ap-*
"*pointed, &c.* These were his then *thoughts*: and its like are so still; only I would desire to know, why he gives that name (its supposed, in *scorn*) to the *Ministers* of our particular Congregations, calling them *Parochial Priests*: of Schisms p. 235. I leave him to give, or others to guesse, the reason of that *Appellation*, and so proceed, to what I named before.

There are but three *wayes* given by §. 6.
him, to *receive* and be *assured*, that a man is *extraordinarily called* to the *Teaching* of others, or to be a *Preacher*; "1. *By im-* p. 30.
"*mediate Revelation.* 2. *By concurrence of*
"*Scripture Rules.* 3. *By some outward*
"*acts of providence.* Concerning which in general, it may be said. 1. That p. 28.
he thus resolved; "*In cases extraordina-*
"*ry it may perhaps be affirmed, that every*
"*one (that is allowed to teach or preach the*
"*Gospel) for such an undertaking, must*
"*have a warrant by an immediate call from*

of God. But of all his three *ways* named, only one of them, is by *immediate call* from God, *viz.* that of *immediate Revelation*; such as the *Patriarchs*, *Prophets*, and *Apostles* had: the other, by *Rules of Scripture*, and *Acts of providence*, are but *mediate calls*, or warrants, and may be *common* to all *Christians*, as the case may be. 2. Before this, *p.* 15. and again *p.* 40. In such *extraordinary* cases of a corrupt Church, *&c.* no more is required, but *Gifts* in the man, and *consent* of the people; which latter is an *outward call*, and that by men; and the former, a *call* from God; *inward* indeed, but not *immediate*. These things do not well agree.

§. 7. But come to the particulars: The first way of *extraordinary calling* is *immediate Revelation*. This is specially in two cases, "1. *Either the inchoation of some*
p. 33. "*divine worke to be established among men,*
"*by a new revelation of Gods will*; 2. *Or a*
"*restauration of the same when collapsed*
"*and corrupted by men.* The only question will be, "*Whether there be any revela-*
"*tion to be expected now, with respect to ei-*
"*ther of those.* And he answers negatively to both: To the first thus,

"*No-*

"*Nothing in such a way shall again take* "*place, God having ultimatly revealed his* "*mind, concerning his worship and our sal-* "*vation, &c.* To the second thus, "*There* "*being an infallible Rule, for the perform-* "*ance of it, making it fall within the duty* "*and ability of men, partakers of an ordi-* "*nary vocation, and instructed with ordina-* "*ry Gifts; God doth not alwaies immediat-* "*ly call men unto it.* But grant that he doth not alwaies immediatly call men to it (as but he did, heretofore) it would have been resolved, "*Whether sometimes* "*God da now immediatly call men to the* "*work of Restauration of Religion?* To which he saies nothing. If he shall say, he does not, he contradicts himself, who said p. 28. "*In this case* (of a corrup- "ted Church) *every one, for such an un-* "*dertaking, must have a warrant by an* "*immediate call from God.* If he say he does sometimes *immediatly* now call men to it; I would say, 1. This is needless (by his own grant) For there being an *infallible* rule, it falls within the *duty* and *ability* of men, *partakers* of an ordinary *vocation, instructed* with ordinary *Gifts*; as he newly said. 2. And then I would call for those *signs* and *evidences*

required to *assure* the man himself, and others, of his *immediate extraordinary vocation.* These he makes to be "*a super-*
P. 34. "*natural power, either in discerning of* "*things present, as thoughts and words,* "*or things future, as* 1. *Things contingent.* "2. *Speaking with Tongues.* 3. *Working* "*of Miracles, &c.* None of which being now to be *found*, (or expected) from our new *Restorers* or *Reformers*, who yet plead the *Revelation* of the *Spirit*, and take themselves *extraordinarily* called by God, to make *new Churches*, upon the pretence of a *collapsed* and *corrupted* state of this our Church; I say none of these being now to be found amongst them; they prove themselves to be *extraordinary impostors*; and those that indulge and countenance them, are accessary to their *impostures.* And whether our *Authour* himself, have not relinquished these former Orthodox *principles* (he now supposing an *intercision* of all Ordinances, and all true *Church-state* lost, as he seems to do, in his *Tract* of *Schism*, as was said above) whether, I say, he must not maintain and expect a new, *immediate* call from God, to be necessary to the *Restauration* of a Church, I leave to all to judge; when

P. 41. f. *who ever pretends unto it, not warranted by an evidence of one of those three ways, which God taketh in such proceedings, is but a pretender, an impostor, and to be rejected of all Gods people.*

when they consider what is said above, at Chap. 7. 9. 10. And I proceed to the next,

The 1d. way of an *extraordinary call* to preach the Gospel is, "*by a concurrence* "*of Scripture Rules; drawn, either from* "*expresse precept, or approved practise*: The precepts are such as these, *Luke* 22. 32. "*When converted strengthen thy bre-* "*thren.* Jam. 5 last. *If any erre from* "*the truth, &c.* Math. 5. 15. *a candle is* "*not to be put under a bushel, &c.* Whence he infers, 1. "*There is a general obliga-* "*tion on all Christians, to promote the con-* "*version and instruction of sinners, &c.* "2. *When any truth necessary, is revealed* "*to any out of the Word, not before known,* "*he ought to have an uncontradicted liber-* "*ty of declaring that truth, &c.* 3. *Truth* "*revealed, carries with it an unmoueable* "*persuasion of conscience, that it ought to* "*be published.* To the first of these, it may be said, This is not an *immediate call* (which he required above); but *mediate* by the *word*. Nor yet an *extraordinary* call, to some particular men, but an *ordinary* obligation on all Christians; Not only in *extraordinary* cases of a *corrupted* Church, but ordinary in the *best*

§. 8. p. 37.

p. 38.

Church:

Church: Not lastly is this sufficient to make any man a *Preacher*; but only an instructer of others, common to all *Christians*, men, and women. To the second, it had need be *cautioned* well, not only, because it may either be *no truth*, which he thinks to, or no *necessary* truth, and so not fit to *disturb* the peace of a Church for it: but also, because upon this *pretence of truth*, every man must take *uncontradicted liberty* to speak in the Church: which will breed *confusion*. Himself therefore adds; "*Provided that he use such words for that his* declaration "*as the Church wherein he liveth, if a right* "*Church, doth allow*. But this in part *contradicts* his *uncontradicted* liberty; for if it be a *necessary truth*, no *Church* may hinder him: But then, the case is of a *corrupted* Church, which will not allow, but *contradict* that liberty; and what shall he then do? To the third, I have only this to say; That a *strong error* carries oft with it an *unmoveable persuasion* of conscience, (which is, in a sort obligatory) that it ought to be published to others. And so *error* must have as much *liberty* as truth. However; all these Rules bind in *ordinary* as well as *extraordinary*

dinary cases of a Church; and give no *authority* to make a man a *Preacher*.

The examples are "*of our Saviour* §. 9.
"*himself, who preached in the* Synagogues p. 39.
"*without any outward call; and of those*
"Acts 8. 1. *who being scattered, went to-*
"*very where preaching the word; so did*
"Paul *and* Apollos, *&c.* For our Saviour, his call was *immediate* and *extraordinary*; So was *Paul's*, an *Apostle*: *Apollos* was at first, no more a *Preacher*, than *Aquila* and Priscilla, who instructed him in the *ways* as one *Christian* may do another: As for those *Acts* 8. 1. its made more than *probable*, by others, that they were *Elders* of the Church, and *Preachers* by Office: If some were not, they did no more, than any *Christian man* or *woman* may do, in such cases, and yet never be *Preachers*: And all this, in a reformed *Church-state*, ordinarily; and so not to the purpose.

For he must remember, that he was §. 10.
to shew, what might *make* and *justifie* a lay-man to be a *Preacher* of the Gospel, in an *extraordinary* call, without an ordinary *outward call* from the Church; and required no more, but *Gifts* and *consent* of people to be instructed by him,

him, as above: Now these instances afore, though they had *Gifts* sufficient, preached the word, when they had not the *consent* of people to hear, or be instructed by them: and so must every one that hath the *truth* revealed, speak, whether they will *hear*, or *forbear*. His main design is, to discover, what a man, no *Minister*, may do, when a Church is *collapsed*, or *corrupted*; the ordinary Ministers, either so *ignorant*, they cannot, or so *negligent* they will not teach the truth, p. 15. And of such a state of a Church, he here puts the case *p. 39. &c.* "*Suppose*
p. 40. "*a man living in the midst and height of*
"*Apostacy, when an universal darkness*
"*hath spread over the face of the Church:*
"*as in* Italy, (*there the Scene is laid, though*
"*pointing at* England) *the Lord reveals*
"*some points of faith, not known, or disbe-*
"*lieved, &c. I demand, whether that man,*
"*without expecting any call from the fo-*
"*menters of those errors, may not preach and*
"*publish these truths to others, &c.* Truly, there is no *difficulty* in this case; I conceive he may, (if he have so much confidence) nay ought, if when and where he can find some that will hear him: But the question is, "*Whether this, ipso facto,*

makes

"*makes him a Preacher in Office?* A wo-
man, a Christian, amongst *Iberians*, may
and did do as much as this; yet, I hope
no *Preacher* of the Gospel, in the strict
sense: yet had she *Gifts* to preach Christ,
and a *people willing* to be instructed by
her. And unless he take *preaching* in the
larger sense, he cannot (could not then,
whatever now) say, "*No other outward*
"*call is requisite to constitute him a Preac-*
"*cher of the Gospel, than the consent of*
"*Gods people to be instructed by him.* A
"*Presbyterian* (as he was then) cannot
affirm this: unlesse he can suppose a time
and place, where there is no *ordination* to
be had; and that, but *prima vice*, neither;
thus the *Presbyterians* hold. Perhaps
these *principles* of his then said,
might *mislead* others and himself, pre-
tending to *Gifts*, and finding a people
willing to be instructed by him, or them,
to make a *Schism* in, and *separation* from
our Churches; by *gathering of a Church*,
because of some *corruptions* in ours; yea,
this is evident that he now proceeds up-
on those *principles*; that nothing is re-
quired to make a *Minister*, but, *gifts* and
consent of people without any outward
call of the Church, which we shall pre-
sently

sonally hear, he formerly required thereunto. And this made him so *careless* in stating the *case* of our first *Reformers*, *Luther*, *Calvin*, *&c.* as to say, "*With this*
p. 41. "*I was always so well satisfied, that I ever* "*deemed all curious disquisition after the* "*outward vocation of our first Reformers*, "*altogether needless*. But, by his leave, the case of *Luther* was not (as he saies) *onelly* that which he laid down. For he is speaking of a *Lay-man*, by that way to be constituted a Preacher or Minister; but *Luther* was a *Minister* ordained; (though with much corruption) and so had an *outward call* by a *Church*, to preach the Gospel in the *truth* and *purity* of it; and I believe our *Author*, did then think him to be a *Minister* of Christ, but his present *principles* deny it. *Luthers* case, in regard of the *corrupted state* of the Church, and the zeal and spirit whereby he managed it, was *extraordinary*; but his *call* was ordinary, as an *ordained Minister*.

2. The *people* who fell off from *Babylon*, with him, were in *Church-State* (though corrupted) as *baptized* persons, and had a *command* to come out of *Babylon*; but the people that our *Author* now gathers, come rather out of *Sion*, and have no

call to *separate* from us; but rather a command, not to *separate*. 3. *Luther* did not renounce his *Ordination*, in the Church of *Rome*, nor his *people* their *Baptism*; nor did our *Author* formerly, think it requisite: but now he hath renounced his Ordination, and *former Ministry*; and upon his *principle*, of *gifts* and *consent* of the *people*, made himself a *Minister*; and it is expected, that ere long, his *people* (if not himself) will renounce their *Baptism*, both of them *standing*, or falling together. And so I come to the last way.

§. 12. The third and last way of an *extraordinary call*, to preach the Gospel without an *ordinary vocation*, is by *some act of providence*. The instance is, "*of a Christian man cast by shipwrack, or otherwise, amongst barbarous people, who receive him humanely: may he not, ought he not, to preach the Gospel unto them? and if he convert souls, may he not become a Pastour to those converted? none I hope, makes doubt of it.* But suppose a *Christian woman*, should be cast upon the same place, (as once among the *Iberians*) ought she not (by his former *principles*) to preach the Gospel to them? no doubt

Ibid.

she

she ought: But if she convert souls there may she become for a *Pastor* to them? none, I hope, will say so: 2. But we have put him a case else-where, of his own making: Suppose a *Barbarian* should find the Scripture, and be converted by it alone: he being *converted*, converts others: I ask now, may he become a *Pastor* to those converts? I hope he will not say he may, till he be *baptized*; nor can they make a *Church* till they be baptized: but who shall baptize either him or them, having no *Minister* there? This, while a *Presbyterian* he would not have granted, nor may now by his *Independent principles* deny, till he is turned *Anabaptist*. 3. We read of men in the *primitive* times (as well as that woman) who, being no *Ministers*, converted the *Indians* and *Moors*; but they neither durst be their *Pastors*, nor *baptize* them, till they were *ordained* in the *Christian* Church, and sent to do it. If *consent* of people, and *gifts* would have constituted them *Ministers*, they needed not to have come home so many *hundred miles*, to fetch their *Ordination*: See but the difference between himself a *Presbyterian*, and now an *Independent*: but enough of that.

Socrat. hist. l. 1. c. 15. 16.

And

And that our Author was a *Presbyterian* formerly, and that upon good *deliberation*, and strong *resolution* to continue, we have his own *acknowledgment*, when thus he writes; "*The principles and rules of that Church Government, from which in the following assertions, I desire not to wander, is of that (to which I do, and allwaies in my poor judgement have adhered, since by Gods assistance, I had engaged my self to the study of his word) which is commonly called* Presbyterial, *or Synodical, in opposition to* Prelatical *or Diocesan, on the one side, and that which is commonly called Independent, or Congregational on the other*. Quantum mutatus ab illo! in his Tract of *Schism*. §. 12. p. 42.

And this he discovered in the requisites, which *Presbyterian Government* holds forth, (in *ordinary* cases) to constitute a *Minister*: for thus he saies: "*For a publick, formal, ministerial teaching, two things are required in the Teacher. 1. Gifts from God. 2. Authority from the Church*. Whence I would inferr, 1. That *consent* or *election* of the people, is not sufficient to §. 13. p. 46.

make a man a *Minister*, though well gifted; but an *Authoritative* act of the *Church*, is to passe upon him, (that is) *Ordination* by the hands of the *Presbytery*, according to his then *principles*. 2. That he is much changed (from what he was) in the *Tract of Schisme*; where he requires, no more to constitute a Minister, than *Gifts* of teaching, and the *peoples submitting* to him: If any shall say, The Dr. by, *Authority* of the Church, meant no more, but the *election* or *Consent* of the people of a Congregation: I would answer for him, I do not believe, that at that time he would or did *aquivocate* with the world; but took it in the *Presbyterian* sense; though now he cries down *Ordination*, by Bishop, or Presbytery, and hath *renounced* his own ordination. And is not this a great *alteration*, and a sign of much *inconstancy*?

§. 14. Having said very much in pleading the *Liberty* of private Christians, lest they should *surfet* of it and *presume* too

pag. 48. far; he gives some *wholsome Presbyterian Cautions*, to bound them; First, "*The end why God bestoweth his gifts on* "*any, is merely that within the bounds of* "*their*

"*their own callings (in which they are circumscribed,* 1 Cor. 7. 24.) *they should use them to his glory, and the edification of his Church.* This was then his judgment; but now he can allow men, of *any calling*, if *gifted*, to violate those bounds, set by God himself, and to be *Preachers* of the Gospel, in *ordinary* cases; which some of the *prime brethren* of *New England* do *reject* & reprobate. Secondly, he required, "*That they do not under pretence of Christian liberty & freedom of conscience, cast away all brotherly amity, and cut themselves off from the communion of the Church! Christ hath not purchased a liberty for any, to rent his Body; they will prove at length, to be no duties of piety, which break the sacred bonds of charity.* Divinely spoken, and like a true *Presbyterian*: To *cut* them elves off, from the *communion* of the Church (which is *separation*) is to *rent* the body of Christ; and what is that but *Schism*? which is so much declamed against, in his book of *Schism*: And what liberty his *people* take, and he allows, for *separation* from not ours, but *any Church*, is fully discoursed above: To separate from the

communion of the Church, is also affirmed to be a *breach of sacred charity*; which is often denyed in the latter book. But yet more *Presbyterian* Doctrine, "*Men ought not, under a pretence of congregating themselves to serve God, separate from their brethren; neglecting the publick Assemblies, as was the manner of some, rebuked by the Apostle*, Heb. 10.25. *There be peculiar blessings, and transcendent privileges, annexed to publick Assemblies; which accompany not private men to their recesses, &c.* yet this is ordinarily done by most of the *Independent* way; and allowed, yea justified now by himself: That sense of the text; *Heb.* 10. 25. of neglecting the publick Assemblies (as the manner of many is) is now, otherwise glossed, and taken for *Apostacy* from the *Faith*: Of *Schism*, *p.*74. And the event hath sadly proved, that *private recesses* are not accompanyed, with those *peculiar blessings* annexed to *publick Assemblies*, witness those *errors, heresies, blasphemies, prophanesses*, which have followed *private* meetings.

§. 45. Another *caution* (and the third is) "*As*

"*As the Ministry, so also ought the Mini-* p. 49.
"*sters, to have that regard, respect and*
"*obedience, which is due to their labours,*
"*in that sacred calling: would we could*
"*not too frequently see, more puffed up*
"*with a conceit of their own gifts, into a*
"*contempt of the most learned and pious*
"*Pastors; those are spots in your Feasts*
"*of charity, &c.* This is so *plain* and evidently true, as if he that writ it, carried the *sunne* in his hand. And he did in a manner prophesie, when he said, "*Let not them who despise a faithful Mi-*
"*nister in publick flatter themselves*
"*with hope of a blessing on their endeavors*
"*in private. Let them pretend what they*
"*will, they have not an equal respect unto*
"*all Gods Ordinances.* No doubt he spake then of our *Parochial Ministers*, and *Ministry*, as an *Ordinance* of God; whom now he *unministers*, and *despises* both them and their Ordination, as we have heard above. *Viderit ipse.*

It might be objected, against the peoples liberty of private *Assemblies*; §.10.
"*That this seems to favour* licentious
"Conventicles, *which in all places the*
"*Laws have condemned; and the Learned in all Ages have abhorred, as Se-*

"minaries

"minaries of Faction and Schism; "*in the Church.* To this he answers, like a true *Presbyterian*; "*Under cor-*
p. 51. "*rection I conceive, that the Law layeth* "*hold of none as peccant in such a kind,* "*but onely those who have predeclared* "*themselves to be opposers of the worship* "*of God, in the publick Assemblies of that* "*Church wherein they live. Neither do I* "*conceive, that they ought at all to be al-* "*lowed the benefit of private meetings,* "*who wilfully abstain from the publick* "*Congregations, so long as the true worship* "*of God is held forth in them.* Enough, enough: Now, what a case are all the *Conventicles* of *Sectaries* in? the very *Seminaries* of *Schism* & *Faction*; and besides, a sinke of *errours heresies*, & *blasphemies.* The only *evasion* will be one of these two, 1. That he spake this, (*under correction*) as not his *peremptory* judgement; And its likely he hath come *under correction* of his party; and done some kind of *penance*, for this
p. 16. declaration; and it may be, his *Latin*
p. 52. *Discourse*, (he tells us of twice at least) "*as an answer to the Arguments of the* "*Remonstrants and others, for such Li-* "*berty of prophesying, as they term it,*

hath