

ASCETICALLY SPEAKING, pp. 39-40

39

community which interpolates the Symbol and doubts her right to that interpolation, or which gives communion to those who declare the Bread and Wine of the High Sacrifice to be mere bread and wine, as well as to those *who declare* it to be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Fourth Letter to William Palmer

LOCALITY IS IRRELEVANT

The undue exaltation of any locality whatever is exactly the antipodes of the very idea of a Christian Church which claims a living communion with the past and the future, with the visible and invisible world.

Fifth Letter to William Palmer

ALL THE PEOPLE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST!

The pope is greatly mistaken in supposing that we consider the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy to be the guardian of the dogma [of the Church]. The case is quite different. The unvarying constancy and the unerring truth of Christian dogma does not depend upon any Hierarchical Order; it is guarded by the totality, by the whole **people** of the Church, which is the Body of Christ.

Sixth Letter to William Palmer

GOD IS NOT IN NUMBERS!

In England, as everywhere else, incredulity, worldly cares, ignorance, prejudice, custom, and apathy hold the great number in their slavery; but God is *not* (emphasis supplied) in numbers. Let a few speak and act boldly, and though as few as the first Apostles, they may begin a rapid course of spiritual conquest, as did the ancient teachers of Christianity. I consider the present moment as eminently favourable, because it is eminently dangerous, and because the danger is manifest.

Seventh Letter to William Palmer

MUTUAL LOVE IS INFINITE: WE MUST MEET OUR TRIALS

The Lord has visited me with a heavy trial. On the 26th of January (O.S.) my wife died, and with her every possibility of earthly happiness for me. God's will

be done! I try to be thankful. Fifteen years and a half of almost unlimited bliss is more than one man in a million has been allowed to enjoy, and a million times more than I ever deserved. Our mutual love was as boundless as an earthly feeling can be. It is not dead. We interchange prayers for one another, just as we interchanged words of affection during her lifetime. She was a pure, loving, and deeply religious soul. How often in our conversation about England have I heard her say: 'When shall we be so happy as to praise God in the same

40

Church with MM. Palmer and William? ' Her death has been childlike: no fear, no affliction, but a full reliance on God's mercy. We may be sure that she has met in heaven a greater love than any love she could have found on earth. God's will be done!

Eighth Letter to William Palmer

BEWARE OF THE ETHNIC 'GHETTO'!

But I will confess that I am somehow suspicious of the Greeks. They have no lack of zeal or freedom (the two great reproaches brought against them by the Latins); but they cannot get rid of a dangerous inheritance from Antiquity. They are Christians, but they are, perhaps, unconsciously too proud of their having been useful to the Church; Christianity belongs too much to their national history, and their hearts are not completely free from a certain un-Christian aristocratic feeling which makes them look down on other Christian nations, though Orthodox, as their inferiors. This feeling is akin to the one that has given rise to the Latin usurpation. Though being checked by a deeper understanding of the true doctrine, it cannot go the whole lengths it has gone in the West, yet it is not completely conquered; and it gives the Greeks that unbending stubbornness and that unamiable disposition which you have noticed and experienced.

Tenth Letter to William Palmer

OUR INWARD SPIRITUAL LIFE BELONGS TO THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL

A Christian, dear sir, belongs to his local church only in his outward life (Discipline, Rite, etc.). In his inward life, he belongs to the universality of the Catholic Church and is in no way affected by the vices of the local church's hierarchy, which he counteracts in a mild and peaceful way, as long as the local church itself has not run into separatism, as the Latin See, or rather, the whole of the Western Communions have done.

AMERICANS, THANK GOD FOR OUR POLITICAL FREEDOM!

I am sorry I can say nothing about your tracts, either in the Greek or the English edition. The very simple reason of my silence is that I have not as yet received them. It is, as you may see, no easy thing to send books over to Russia if their contents are not agreeable to our ecclesiastical or political rules. The thing becomes still more difficult if the books bear my address.

Eleventh Letter to William Palmer

THE SPIRITUAL SOLDIER NEEDS NO NOTORIETY

The idea you have suggested to our chaplain of publishing in England the newest polemical writings of our Church is an excellent one, and I should be happy and proud to appear in the company of such men as our Metropolitan, though always under the condition of my pamphlet remaining anonymous. I am quite content to do my duty as a

41

soldier in a line of battle, and do not feel any ambition to appear alone in the lists, or to undertake a battle single-handed as a Knight errant or fabulous Hercules.