



The People of God, Vol. 2 of 2 : An Inquiry Into Christian Origins (Classic Reprint)

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Excerpt from The People of God, Vol. 2 of 2: An Inquiry Into Christian Origins Every Anglican who reflects upon his position finds himself placed in some difficulty. On the one hand, he sees that his Church, almost alone among the reformed communions, has retained a ministry which reaches back behind the Reformation and joins hands with the Church of the earliest centuries, it is not simply a type of ministry or a form of government which has been retained it is a principle of authorization or ordination of ministers - that none may undertake the duties of the ministry, except they be ordained by those whom the Church for centuries and centuries has regarded as alone competent to ordain, i.e. the age-long and world-wide succession of Bishops. Here is this succession of Bishops reaching back through the centuries - a time-honoured continuity to which no other organization of any kind can show an equal. And if this chain is once broken, if this principle is once thrown overboard by allowing a generation to grow up without episcopal ordination of clergy, the continuity is gone for ever and cannot be re covered. For this reason every one must feel that a thing which has come down to us out of a past so remote, which has been sanctioned and hallowed by the practice of the entire Church for so many centuries, ought not to be lightly tossed aside. We must first make quite sure that it. has done the work intended of it and that it is now no more than an encumbrance. On the other hand, this adherence to the ancient ministry though it is not the only obstacle, yet forms a serious barrier to Christian unity. It is, of course, quite true that every step we take towards the Protestant Churches takes us farther away from our Greek and Roman brethren. But one cannot help feeling that Christian divisions are nowhere more grievous or unnatural than they are between Anglicans and Nonconformists. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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