

**THE HISTORY OF TEACHINGS
OF THE EARLY CHURCH, AS
A BASIS FOR THE RE-UNION
OF CHRISTENDOM; LECTURES**

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The History of teachings of the early Church, as a basis for the re-union of Christendom; lectures
by Various

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THE
HISTORY AND TEACHINGS
OF THE
EARLY CHURCH

AS A BASIS FOR
THE
RE-UNION OF CHRISTENDOM

Lectures

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PREFACE.

THE lectures published in this volume were delivered in Christ Church, in this city, during the spring of 1888, under the auspices of the Church Club, an association of laymen of this diocese who have banded themselves together with this object, among others, of promoting the spread of sound Church doctrine and building up a robust churchmanship among the people.

This course of lectures was the first effort of the Church Club in this direction.

The subject chosen, that which gives the general title to the whole course, namely, "*The History and Teachings of the Early Church as a Basis for the Reunion of Christendom*," is eminently suggestive, in view of the recent utterances of our American House of Bishops, and of the Bishops assembled at the Lambeth Conference, on the subject of reunion and unity, and the erroneous constructions that some have put upon their words.

We regard the Reunion of Christendom as im-

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possible except upon the basis of the faith and discipline of the Early Church, and to ascertain what those are, men must study her history.

Two facts stand out in bold relief in Catholic Christianity, considered from the historic standpoint :

First. The historic ministry, tracing its descent back without break or interruption to the Apostles' times, and commonly and correctly described as the Ministry of the Apostolic Succession.

Second. The fact that all Bishops are equal as touching their office, and that our Lord committed the supreme government of His Church to the Apostles and their successors, that is to say, to the collective Episcopate, and not to any one individual Bishop.

These facts appear to be strongly brought out in these lectures, which on that account alone deserve attention ; but when the names and ability of the prelates and theologians who delivered them are taken into account, the volume may be cordially recommended not only to members of our communion, but also to those thoughtful men not in communion with us who are earnestly pondering the great question of Christian Unity.

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The Pentecostal Age and Growth of the
Church to the Death of Saint John.