

**LETTERS ON THE
SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES,
THEIR DOCTRINE, WORSHIP
AND POLITY**

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Letters on the Scandinavian Churches, Their Doctrine, Worship and Polity by John B. Pratt

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JOHN B. PRATT

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ON
THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES,

THEIR
Doctrines, Worship, and Polity.

BY
THE REV. JOHN B. PRATT, LL.D.,
AUTHOR OF "THE OLD PATHS," ETC.
INCUMBENT OF S. JAMES'S, CRUDEN.

**ἵνα μὴ ᾖ σχίσμα ἐν τῷ σώματι.—1 Cor. xii. 25.*

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NOTE.

IN the Diocesan Synod of Aberdeen, Sept. 8, 1863, the following motion was proposed and adopted, with only two dissentient voices :

" THAT THE SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, HAVING TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THE GREAT DUTY OF PROMOTING UNITY AMONG INDEPENDENT CHURCHES, NOW UNHAPPILY ESTRANGED, OR, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, CUT OFF FROM ONE ANOTHER, RESOLVES TO PETITION THE EPISCOPAL SYNOD OF THIS CHURCH TO TAKE INTO ITS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION, WHETHER ANY AND WHAT MEANS COULD BE DEVISED FOR ENTERING ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES, WITH THE VIEW OF ASCERTAINING THE PRACTICABILITY OF INTERCOMMUNION WITH THE SAME, ON PURELY CATHOLIC GROUNDS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES."

The idea of preparing the following Letters had its origin in this motion. The Letters are, in a great measure, compilations from various sources, and therefore their chief value is—that they contain, within a narrow compass, a con-

siderable mass of information which lay scattered over many volumes, or was not readily accessible to the ordinary reader.

In procuring books and documents for the preparation of the Letters, the author has to acknowledge his obligations to the Very Rev. Principal CAMPBELL, of the University of Aberdeen; THOMAS STEPHEN, Esq., the author of the "History of the Church of Scotland;" the Rev. F. S. MAY, 15, Crown Terrace, London; the Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., Librarian, King's College, Aberdeen; and especially, His Excellency G. J. R. GORDON, H. M. Minister Plenipotentiary at Stuttgardt, who is intimately and personally acquainted with the present state of the Scandinavian Churches, and who kindly procured for him documents and translations which he could not otherwise have obtained.

Two of the Letters, the second and third, appeared in the "Scottish Ecclesiastical Journal," and four—the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh, in the "Scottish Guardian." The others are now printed for the first time.

3rd Week in Lent, 1865.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
LETTER I.	
BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY INTO SCANDINAVIA	1
LETTER II.	
INQUIRY INTO THE RIGHT OF THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES TO A PLACE AMONG THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF CHRISTENDOM	8
LETTER III.	
EVIDENCE FOR AND AGAINST THE CLAIMS OF THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES TO AN UNBROKEN APOSTOLICAL SUCCESSION	19
LETTER IV.	
THE NATURE AND EFFICIENCY OF THE SCANDINAVIAN ORDINALS	45

	PAGE
LETTER V.	
THE CREEDS, CONFESSIONS, AND DOCTRINE OF THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES	61
LETTER VI.	
SCANDINAVIAN LITURGIES AND FORMS OF WORSHIP	77
LETTER VII.	
THE ORDINARY SERVICE AND WORSHIP OF THE SCAN- DINAVIAN CHURCHES	103
LETTER VIII.	
INFLUENCE OF THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES ON THE LIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THEIR MEMBERS	119
LETTER IX.	
REVIEW OF THE SUBJECT :—CIRCUMSTANCES ADVERSE AND FAVOURABLE TO THE RESTORATION OF INTER- COMMUNION BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND SCANDI- NAVIAN CHURCHES	149

THE SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES.

LETTER I.

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY INTO SCANDINAVIA.

SIR,

The history of the Scandinavian Church, while in its infant state, is neither very full nor very explicit. As of Scotland, so of Scandinavia, we can form only a vague conjecture as to the century when the first dawn of Christianity was shed abroad on the country; while, by whom the Gospel was first preached, or the exact year when the messengers of the Cross first reached the kingdoms of the North, we can with no certainty determine. We know that Nicolas Breakspere, who, from being a swineherd in the neighbourhood of S. Alban's rose to the Pontificate, under the title of Adrian IV., was greatly instrumental in the conversion of the North. But it would be nowise more correct to assert that he