

**THE CHURCH OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT THE
PRESBYTERATE, A DEFENSE
OF PRESBYTERIANISM**

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The church of the New Testament the Presbyterate, a defense of Presbyterianism by William Paterson

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WILLIAM PATERSON

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THE CHURCH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

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THE PRESBYTERATE

A DEFENCE OF PRESBYTERIANISM

BY THE
REV. WILLIAM PATERSON

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Dedicated
TO
ALL PROTESTANT PRESBYTERIANS
WHO BELIEVE THEY HAVE A SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GOVERNMENT
WITH THE DESIRE
THAT THE READING OF THIS VOLUME MAY
INDUCE THEM TO LOVE THEIR CHURCH POLITY MORE
FOR ITS
ANTIQUITY, SIMPLICITY, PURITY AND
ITS ABILITY TO TRAIN
BRAVE, GOOD MEN AND BEAUTIFUL SAINTS
FOR THIS WORLD AND THAT WHICH IS TO COME.
TO THE DIVINE FOUNDER
BE ALL THE GLORY.

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P R E F A C E

THE author has to acknowledge his deep obligations to the Rev. James Kennedy, B.D., of the Library of the New College, Edinburgh, whose value every student knows who ever passed through that Institution, and to whom the Free Church is under deep obligations. He has devoted his life to the cultivation of a high standard of learning among the young men, in urging them to graduate, and to his courtesy and quiet influence, that institution owes its present high standard of attainment. His knowledge of books saves students and writers a vast amount of trouble, vexation and time.

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But above all he has to acknowledge the guidance of his New Testament, where he has found words quivering with life, veritable facts of history, profoundest doctrines, which he has not yet fully fathomed, and the shape and polity of the Church he loves. Evangelical members of the Church of England will not admit that there is the polity of any church described or intended there, and the reason is obvious. But what is written is written. He has tried to find out what the New Testament says for itself, and he can read nothing there originally but presbyters and deacons, a presbytery for ordination and an assembly for the settlement of great questions, on the Church's doctrine and polity.

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The Church of the New Testament

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

MUCH has been written in recent years on the Church. Roman Catholics and Anglo Catholics have been shaping its polity in their own interests, and by their averments they have put an end to all controversy. If they are to be believed they have gained the battle and silenced all dissent. Protestantism they have finished by calling it a mere negation; and they are marching over the land in triumph. Presbyterianism is too contemptible, they imagine, to give it much thought.

They forget, however, that there is such a book as the New Testament, in which a great deal appears about Jesus Christ and the Gospel, a great deal about a Church which Christ established by His Apostles for the promulgation of that Gospel, and which was in existence long before any of these Catholicisms was ever heard of. Bruno, Carter, Staley, Newman, with Gore, Moberly, and others have spent their strength in recent attacks. Presbyterians have been very summarily cast out of the Church to which they believe they had a Divine right. The author is a Presbyterian by birth, and from the deepest convictions, and from