

**THE MORAVIAN MANUAL:
CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF
THE PROTESTANT CHURCH OF THE
MORAVIAN UNITED BRETHERN,
OR UNITAS FRATRUM; PP.1-177**

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OF THE

Protestant Church of the Moravian United Brethren,

OR

UNITAS FRATRUM.

BY

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PREFACE.

The first Manual, giving an account of the Constitution and Discipline of the Moravian Church, was written by Bishop Spangenberg, and published in Germany, in the year 1774. In 1775, it was translated into English, and published in London, with a preface by the Rev. B. La Trobe. This work passed through a number of revised editions, both in the German and English languages. The last American edition, in a small pamphlet form of about seventy pages, appeared in 1833; but is now obsolete. It bears the following title: "A Concise Historical Account of the present Constitution of the Protestant Church of the United Brethren; Philadelphia, 1833." In the year 1789, a larger work, containing over three hundred and fifty pages, was written by the Rev. J. Loretz, and published in Germany, under the title: "Ratio Disciplina Unitatis Fratrum." The first part of this volume comprises an interesting sketch of the history of the Church; the other parts, treating of the Constitution and Discipline, are obsolete.

The Provincial Synod of the Northern District of the American Province, at its last meeting, held in the month of June,

1858, authorized the publication of a new Manual, suitable to the present wants of the Church in the United States, and committed the compilation of it to the writer. He has striven to fulfil the resolution adopted by the Synod, (see *Journal of Synod of 1858*, p. 106, F. 1,) to the best of his ability; although he found the duty assigned him a far more difficult one than he had supposed. The abundance of his materials often rendered it hard for him to decide what was essential, and what unessential; and the number of Synodical Journals and Reports to be consulted required the closest attention and considerable labor. Whatever the imperfections of the Manual may be, he thinks he can vouch for its authenticity.

The historical chapter contains an original sketch; and the chapter treating of the Present Condition of the Church is based upon the most recent information which could be obtained. In the Chapter on Doctrine, a Compendium will be found, setting forth the essential doctrines held by the Church. This Compendium has been drawn up with very great care, and exclusively in the language of authorized publications of the Church; excepting only the expression "we hold," which frequently occurs, or here and there a copulative, necessary to unite sentences derived from different works. The Compendium is therefore not a subjective treatise on Moravian Doctrine, but simply an authorized statement of it, compiled from Moravian books. For the remaining chapters, the following official documents were consulted: Results of the General Synod of 1848; Results of the General Synod of 1857; Report of the Proceedings of the Preparatory Provincial Conference, held at Bethlehem, Pa., in the month of

May, 1847; Report of the Proceedings of the Provincial Synod, held at Bethlehem, Pa., in the month of June, 1846; Journal of the Provincial Synod, held at Bethlehem, Pa., in the month of May, 1855; Journal of the Provincial Synod, held at Bethlehem, Pa., in the month of October, 1856; Digest of the Provincial Synod, held at Salem, N. C., in the month of May, 1856; Report of the Provincial Synod, held at Salem, N. C., in the month of February, 1858, as published in "The Moravian;" Journal of the Provincial Synod, held at Bethlehem, Pa., in the month of June, 1858. In drawing up the chapter on Constitution, the writer endeavored to present the entire Constitution, general and provincial, as explicitly, and in as symmetrical a form as possible. In order to effect this, it became necessary, when stating the statutes, to adopt one tense throughout; and he chose that which is commonly employed in constitutions. It has been his earnest endeavor not to omit a single point, belonging to the constitution; especially so far as the American Province is concerned. The Constitution of the Southern District was drawn up by a member of its Provincial Board.

This Manual was submitted, in manuscript, to the Provincial Board, at Bethlehem, Pa., and has received its sanction, after a careful examination of the contents. At the same time, however, it may be well to state, that the work is not intended, in any way at all, to *supersede* the "Results" of the last General Synod, or the Journals and Reports of the Provincial Synods of this Province. All these documents remain in force as heretofore, and will guide the deliberations of future Synods. The purpose of the Manual is a two-fold

one: to give the members of the church, in one compendious volume, the ecclesiastical statutes, rules of discipline, and articles of doctrine, which heretofore could be found only by consulting a number of different publications;—and especially to afford an authentic work which may be put into the hands of such as seek information respecting the Moravian Church, and wish to become acquainted with its constitution, discipline, doctrine, and ritual.

The writer is indebted, for valuable statistics, to Bishop Wells, of the Provincial Board at Bethlehem, to the Rev. G. F. Bahnson, of the Provincial Board at Salem, to the Rev. W. Mallatten, of the British Provincial Board, and the Rev. L. T. Reichel, of the Unity's Elders' Conference.

PHILADELPHIA, May 17, 1859.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The Church of which this volume treats is known by various names: *The United Brethren*, *The Moravian Church*, *The Church of the Moravian United Brethren*, *The Unitas Fratrum*. The latter name was adopted by the Ancient Church of the Brethren in the fifteenth century, and has been retained by the Renewed Church. It denotes all the Provinces and Missions of the Church, in whatever parts of the world they may be, as one confederated ecclesiastical body. A briefer appellation of the same import, is *The Unity*; and this is frequently used in the following work. The name *Moravian* is derived from the country of Moravia, where the Church formerly had some of its principal seats; and whence the men came by whom it was renewed in Saxony.

About the beginning of the present century, the followers of the Rev. W. Orterbein, who was originally a minister of the German Reformed Church, but left its communion, constituted themselves into a Society, which assumed the name of "United Brethren in Christ." This society is often confounded with the Church of the Moravian United Brethren. The two are distinct and separate denominations, in every respect.