

**THE ONE CHURCH ON EARTH:
HOW IT IS MANIFESTED, AND
WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF
COMMUNION IN IT**

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by John Robertson

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JOHN ROBERTSON

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HOW IT IS MANIFESTED,
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COMMUNION IN IT.

BY

REV. JOHN ROBERTSON, A.M.

HART FREE CHURCH, ABERDEEN.

"I'm first a Christian, then a Catholic, next a Calvinist, fourth a Pedobaptist,
and fifth a Presbyterian. I cannot reverse the order."—DR. JOHN DUNCAN.

EDINBURGH:
EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS.
1871.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages make no pretensions to be an exhaustive treatment of the subject on the title-page. They are rather a summary of fundamental truths on Church organization, drawn directly from the Word of God. The aim of the author in them has been to reach exegetically the Biblical idea of Church unity, which underlies all Church organization, and must be understood before a fair and successful effort can be made to deal with the problem of incorporative union now engaging the attention of Christendom.

The time has come when all our Church principles must be drawn afresh from the "faith once delivered to the saints." And the present attempt

will be more than repaid, if abler men be led thereby into a field of doctrine as yet almost untouched.

One great question of the times still remaining among others is, What are the principles that should regulate the construction of Church creeds for Church teachers?—in other words, How should congregations be classified while their teachers' creeds are in process of formation? This question needs a Hercules equal to the task. The author, in the present instance, has chosen an easier field, and tried to break ground at a preliminary point.

ARBOATH, 6th April 1871.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

SECT.	PAGE
I.—NOMENCLATURE,	1
II.—THE ONENESS OF THE INVISIBLE CHURCH— WHAT IT IS,	13
III.—THE ONENESS OF THE INVISIBLE CHURCH ON EARTH—HOW MANIFESTED,	47
IV.—THE ONENESS OF THE INVISIBLE CHURCH ON EARTH—WHAT MARKS DISTINGUISH ITS PROPER MANIFESTATION,	63

PART II.

I.—THE ONENESS OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH,	71
II.—THE ONENESS OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH—HOW MANIFESTED,	84
III.—THE VISIBLE CHURCH—ITS MARKS OF ONE- NESS,	104
APPENDIX,	119

1. $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$

2. $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{20}$

3. $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{42}$

4. $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{72}$

5. $\frac{1}{10} \times \frac{1}{11} = \frac{1}{110}$

6. $\frac{1}{12} \times \frac{1}{13} = \frac{1}{156}$

7. $\frac{1}{14} \times \frac{1}{15} = \frac{1}{210}$

8. $\frac{1}{16} \times \frac{1}{17} = \frac{1}{272}$

9. $\frac{1}{18} \times \frac{1}{19} = \frac{1}{342}$

10. $\frac{1}{20} \times \frac{1}{21} = \frac{1}{420}$

11. $\frac{1}{22} \times \frac{1}{23} = \frac{1}{506}$

12. $\frac{1}{24} \times \frac{1}{25} = \frac{1}{600}$

13. $\frac{1}{26} \times \frac{1}{27} = \frac{1}{702}$

14. $\frac{1}{28} \times \frac{1}{29} = \frac{1}{812}$

15. $\frac{1}{30} \times \frac{1}{31} = \frac{1}{930}$

16. $\frac{1}{32} \times \frac{1}{33} = \frac{1}{1056}$

17. $\frac{1}{34} \times \frac{1}{35} = \frac{1}{1190}$

18. $\frac{1}{36} \times \frac{1}{37} = \frac{1}{1332}$

19. $\frac{1}{38} \times \frac{1}{39} = \frac{1}{1482}$

20.

PART I.

SECT. I.—NOMENCLATURE.

THE Church here is not the *High Church* nor the *Low Church*. We may not be hampered with the partial dogmas of either of these. It is not the "Establishment" in Scotland or "the Church" in England. We may not possess it by law or authority. We go further back, nearer to the sources of the great Nile of Christendom, and endeavour to see the Catholic Church of Christ and His apostles established by command of God in the world. We omit that part of it which passes into heaven time after time. That is above, we are beneath, and are interested now in the unity of the *Church below*. An illustration will help us to understand the general notion of it that is found in Scripture. Picture to yourselves a company of pilgrims starting to some