

This is the Church to which the scriptural *titles* of present honour and privilege, and the *promises* of future glory specially belong. This is the body of Christ.—This is the Bride. This is the Lamb's Wife.—This is the flock of Christ.—This is the household of faith and family of God.—This is God's building, God's foundation, and the building of the Holy Ghost.—This is the Church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven.—This is the royal priesthood, the chosen generation, the peculiar people, the purchased possession, the habitation of God, the light of the world, the salt and wheat of the earth. This is the "Holy Catholic Church" of the Apostles' Creed. This is the "One Catholic and Apostolic Church" of the Nicene Creed. This is that Church to which the Lord Jesus promises "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," and to which He says, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—(Matt. xvi. 18, xxviii. 20.)

This is the only Church which possesses true *unity*. Its members are entirely agreed on all the weightier matters of religion, for they are all taught by one Spirit. About God and Christ, and the Spirit, and sin, and their own hearts, and faith and repentance, and the necessity of holiness, and the value of the Bible, and the importance of prayer, and the resurrection and judgment to come,—about all these points they are of one mind. Take three or four of them, strangers to one another from the remotest corners of the earth. Examine them separately on these points. You will find them all of one judgment.

This is the only Church which possesses true *sanctity*. Its members are all holy. They are not merely holy by profession, holy in name, and holy in the judgment of charity. They are all holy in act, and deed holy and reality, and life, and truth. They are all more or less conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. No unholy man belongs to this Church.

This is the only Church which is truly *Catholic*. It is not the Church of any one nation or people. Its members are to be found in every part of the world where the Gospel is received and believed. It is not confined within the limits of any one country, nor pent up within the pale of any particular forms or outward government. In it there is no difference between Jew and Greek, black man and white, Episcopalian and Presbyterian,—but faith in Christ is all. Its members will be gathered from north, and south, and east, and west, in the last day, and will be of every name, and tongue,—but all one in Christ Jesus.

This is the only Church which is truly *apostolic*. It is built on the foundation laid by the apostles, and holds the doctrines which they preached. The two grand objects at which its members aim, are apostolic faith and apostolic practice; and they consider the man who talks of following the apostles without possessing these two things, to be no better than sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal.

This is the only Church which is certain to endure *unto the end*. Nothing can altogether overthrow and destroy it. Its members may be persecuted, oppressed, imprisoned, beaten, beheaded, burned. But the true Church is never altogether extinguished. It rises again from its afflictions.—It lives on through fire and water.—When crushed in one land, it springs up in another. The Pharaohs, the Herods, the Neros, the bloody Marys, have laboured in vain to put down this Church. They slay their thousands, and then pass away and go to their own place. The true Church out-lives them all, and sees them buried in its turn. It is an anvil that has broken many a hammer in this world, and will break many a ham-

mer still. It is a bush which is often burning, and yet is not consumed.

This is the only Church of which no one member can *perish*. Once enrolled in the lists of this Church, sinners are safe for eternity.—They are never cast away. The election of God the Father,—the continual intercession of God the Son,—the daily renewing and sanctifying power of God the Holy Ghost, surround and fence them in like a garden enclosed. Not one bone of Christ's mystical body shall ever be broken. Not one lamb of Christ's flock shall ever be plucked out of His hand.

This is the Church which does the *work of Christ upon earth*. Its members are a little flock, and few in number, compared with the children of the world.—one or two here, and two or three there,—a few in this parish, and a few in that. But these are they who shake the universe.—These are they who change the fortunes of kingdoms by their prayers.—These are they who are the active workers for spreading the knowledge of pure religion and undefiled.—These are the life-blood of a country,—the shield, the defence, the stay, and the support of any nation to which they belong.

This is the Church which shall be truly *glorious at the end*. When all earthly glory is passed away, then shall this Church be presented without spot before God the Father's throne. Thrones, principalities and powers upon earth shall come to nothing.—Dignities, and offices, and endowments shall all pass away.—But the Church of the first-born shall shine as the stars at the last, and be presented with joy before the Father's throne, in the day of Christ's appearing. When the Lord's jewels are made up, and the manifestation of the sons of God takes place, Episcopacy, and Presbyterianism, and Congregationalism will not be mentioned. One Church only will be named, and that is the Church of the elect.

Reader, *this is the true Church to which a man must belong, if he would be saved*. Till you belong to this, you are nothing better than a lost soul. You may have the form, the husk, the skin, and the shell of religion, but you have not got the substance and the life. Yes! you may have countless outward privileges,—you may enjoy great light and knowledge;—but if you do not belong to the body of Christ, your light, and knowledge, and privileges, will not save your soul. Alas! for the ignorance that prevails on this point! Men fancy if they join this church or that church, and become communicants, and go through certain forms, that all must be right with their souls. It is an utter delusion. It is a gross mistake. All were not Israel who were called Israel, and all are not members of Christ's body who profess themselves Christians. Take notice, you may be a staunch Episcopalian, or Presbyterian, or Independent, or Baptist, or Wesleyan, or Plymouth Brother,—and yet not belong to the true Church. And if you do not, it will be better at last if you had never been born.

The satisfaction experienced by the pious of all denominations, in the perusal of the preceding plain and pointed testimony in behalf of the "True Church," will not be diminished by finding that the Rector of Helmington, does not stand alone in the English Church, as the exponent of these sentiments, as proved by the following paper, read at the *Missionary Conference*, held in Freemasons' Hall, October 12, 1852. Would that all the "Rectors" and "Incumbents" in Canada, possessed the enlightened views of