

The hand of the Almighty wrote over "the narrow gate" of that Kingdom, in letters bright and bold enough to be read of all men, this sentence: "*Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*" * This language is sufficiently plain, and exclusive, and uncompromising, to mark the perpetual distinction between the Church and the world. That these three orders were to be continued in the Church, and were to constitute the Christian ministry for all time to come, and were to go hand in hand with the Word and the Sacraments, thereby identifying the Christian Church throughout the earth, is evident from the history of the Church, in the apostolic age.

The original number of the twelve apostles was made good by the appointment of MATTHIAS in place of Judas.† The objection that the office of an apostle was a temporary one, instituted solely for the work of laying the foundation of the Church, and was therefore confined to the twelve, is effectually silenced by the fact, that others were added to this

* John iii. 5.

† Acts i.