

"UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH." *S. Matthew*
XVI. 18.

The Church of GOD is one, not many. As GOD is One and Holy even so GOD'S Church is One and Holy. The Faith taught in the One, Holy Church is complete and unchangeable to the end of time. It is really absurd to imagine the possibility of two supreme Gods, or two complete Faiths, or two Divine Churches. There cannot be more than one outward and visible Church. Her history runs parallel with the history of the world. The Church of GOD existed ages before the Incarnation of Our Blessed Lord. When Adam sinned GOD instituted His Spiritual Kingdom, the Church, as the medium through which and by which He dispensed pardon and grace to guilty man. The Church of GOD in the Christian dispensation is but the Church of GOD in succession from the ancient Jewish hierarchy. Through the long and weary ages of the past the Church reaches us to-day, and will continue upon the earth as the One, Holy, Divine Church until the glorious advent of Her Lord. The members of the Church of GOD, then, consist of all those who have been received into the same by the initiative rites of circumcision or holy baptism, and who have worshipped Almighty GOD, though imperfectly, under the three dispensations of Adam, Abraham, and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Before the Holy Incarnation of Our Lord the Church was *local* in its character, confined to the Jewish nation, but when Our Lord organised the Christian Church He made it *Catholic*. She is Catholic in being divinely adapted to the spiritual needs of the whole human race, and calling to Her sacred Fold every nation under Heaven. The Catholic commission given to the holy Apostles was: "Going, therefore, make ye disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of Father, and of Son, and of Holy Ghost." It is this divinely-commissioned, Catholic, Apostolic, Baptised Church which is the Church of GOD under the Christian dispensation. No other institution of merely human and modern origin can ever be the Divine Church. The Church exists to-day scattered throughout the nations of the world. She is, therefore, Catholic, and that is the reason why Her Children continually confess at the altar of GOD: "I believe in One, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come." The