

THE CUSTODIAN OF REVEALED TRUTH.

By "Josephus."

After centuries of restless contention, intermixed with much waste of energy, and accompanied sometimes with misguided zeal, well meaning men have come to wonder why so little has been accomplished, from their point of view, in the interests of religion. Right thinking men are becoming more deeply interested in this great problem, and some, going beyond a mere surface investigation in their attempts to solve it, are beginning to realize that there is some truth after all, in the proverbial saying, "united we stand, divided we fall." Union is strength, and for the successful welding together of heterogeneous bodies, dismembered, disunited, and divided into many sections, union is necessary. The baneful results arising from the want of union among the many disorganized sects is becoming more painfully evident to men given to serious thought concerning religion, and in their zeal for the cause they cry out from the heart, "Let us unite."

While such thoughts are occupying men's minds, would it not be well, laying prejudice aside, to enter a little deeper into the subject, striving to find some solid foundation upon which unity can be built up.

No one can deny that the study of religion should engage the highest place in the mind of man, because it appertains to his life beyond the grave. But the study of religion as it comes from God, necessarily leads to the Church which He authorized to teach it. That Church must be the one in

which alone real unity can be found.

The great Architect Himself proclaimed it to the world in these memorable words: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My Church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Here He spoke in clear and forcible language of the kind of foundation on which He built His Church, not Churches. On another solemn occasion when He authorized His Church through the Apostles to go forth and teach all nations, He declared that He would be with Her till the end of time. "Going, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world."

From this it must be clear to all liberal-minded men that Christ established a Church, that he commissioned that Church to teach all nations, and that He gave His solemn promise that He would remain with His Church in spirit and in truth for all time.

So surely, then, as the Church of Christ existed once on earth, so surely does it exist to-day wherever it is to be found. Otherwise Christ has deceived his people, whom He came to save; He has not fulfilled his promise; He is not God. That the Church which Christ founded on the rock of Peter must be one, not two or more, must also be self-evident to all. If She were more than one, She could not be the one true and only Church of