

with the principles of religion, and who profess their faith, and the manner how they were brought to the knowledge of God, by faith in Christ, either *viva voce*, or else by a public declaration thereof, made by the elders, as it has been delivered to them in private, although if such profession be scandalized by an unchristian conversation, it is not to be regarded. Secondly. The constitutive part of a particular visible Church ought to be a re-stipulation or natural covenantry to walk together in their Christian communion, according to the rule of the Gospel. Thirdly. No Church ought to be of a larger extent, or greater number, than may ordinarily meet together in one place, for the enjoyment of all the same numerical ordinances, and celebrating divine worship, nor fewer ordinarily, than may carry on Church work. Fourthly. That there is no jurisdiction to which particular Churches are or ought to be subject, by way of authoritative censure, nor to any other Church power, extrinsical to such Churches, which they ought to depend upon any other sort of men for the exercise of.

By the three first of these fundamental doctrines voluntary combination was established as the principle of action ; by the last total independence of the English, or any other ecclesiastical establishment, was secured. When a sufficient number of persons were gathered together, they