

## INTRODUCTION.

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The Church of Christ, as constituted by Him, was one Body; EPH. iv. 3-6. This corporeal unity had its foundation and its preservative in the existence of one Heart and one Soul among Believers (ACTS iv. 32), one Mind to think and one Mouth to confess their faith (ROM. xv. 6), and one Spirit in which to stand fast in that Faith (PHIL. i. 27). Having one Faith, the various Churches could act in unison with regard to Heresy or erroneous Doctrines (2 PET. ii. 1, TITUS iii. 10, 2 JOHN 10, 2 THESS. iii. 6 & 14, ROM. xvi. 17) : as well as violations of apostolic traditions in ceremonies and customs which were uniform throughout the Church (1 COR. xi. 16, ACTS xv. 20, xi. 25 & 28, 1 COR. xiv. 40 &c). The Body having this Unity and Uniformity, was designed to convert the whole world to Christ, hence called "Catholic" or all-pervading : and the condition of its being able to effect this its purpose was that it should *remain* thus unanimous and uniform throughout (JOHN xvi. 21). There were essentials and non-essentials both in