

There are also other bodies of persons professing and calling themselves Christians, but who do not claim that their organization is that of a church; the distinguishing sign being that they have no order of ministry, and in some that they have no administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Yet these generally hold the substance of Christian doctrine as hereinbefore stated.

OF GENERAL AUTHORITY IN MATTERS OF FAITH.

In considering this matter, which is not only important but fundamental, it is well to note the position that various bodies of Christian people take and hold in regard to it.

For upon a right understanding of this point will depend the determination of many controversies, the solution of various problems, and correct views of many things which perplex the Christian man who looks round upon the various communities of the Christian world.

In the statement and setting forth of what is considered and agreed to be true, if it be asked: What authority, if any, is acknowledged by various bodies of professing Christians as to what is true? it will be found that distinction begins at an early stage of the enquiry. Thus: All Christians acknowledge the supreme authority of Jesus Christ, and of those Apostles, whose writings are found in the New Testament, or whose acts are recorded therein. This is the first step.

Further: All acknowledge that the Gospels are a true record of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

And all acknowledge that the book of the Acts of the Apostles contains a true record of the doings and teachings of certain of His apostles and disciples, and that the Epistles, and the Book of the Revela-