

so send I you." Why else did He converse so long a time with them in Galilee, giving them, no doubt, full directions about the establishment of His Church? Why else did He assert that "all power had been given unto him, both in heaven and on earth?" Why else did He so solemnly commission His disciples to plant His Church on earth, and to initiate immortal beings into it by baptising them in the names of the several persons of the eternal Trinity? And lastly, why else did he give them His gracious promise to be with them in this great work to the end of the world? Assuredly it was to mark in a most emphatic manner the great event of the founding of His Church. Nothing short of such an event was worthy of such important proofs of our blessed Lord's interest in it; and when we come to consider the importance of the work committed to the Church for all time to come, even the salvation of countless myriads of immortal souls, we can easily see how entirely worthy of Christ's deepest interest it was. No sooner had Christ left His disciples than they began the work that He had left them to do, and the very first thing they did was to fill up the number of the apostles, for, selecting two of the disciples who had been with Jesus during His ministry, they prayed, saying "Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show which of these two thou hast chosen, that he might take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. "And they gave forth their lots, and the lot fell upon Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles." Remember that this was the first act of the inspired apostles after Jesus had given them full directions about His Church on earth. The very first thing they did was to fill up their number, just as any corporate body sees that its number is filled up on the death or resignation of one of its body. Who can believe that the inspired apostles, in performing this their first public act, did not carry out *the very directions* that they had *received from their ascended Lord*? And who can fail to see that by filling up their "ministry and apostleship" they gave us an assurance that that ministry and apostleship was to be *continued* in the Church of Christ? Having thus filled up their number they were in a position to commence the work of proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation, which they did on the great day of Pentecost, when there were added to the infant church no less than 3,000 souls, the Holy Ghost thus *endorsing* the acts of the apostles in filling up their number. Here then, we have a corporate body fully established, in full operation, and that corporate body the Church of Christ! Note especially that there was but one church, not a dozen churches, but *one Church*. In a few years that church was planted in many different lands, but it was still one and the same Church; for a Christian of those days, whenever he might travel found himself at *home*. If he visited half a dozen cities in