

FIFTH SERIES OF NOTES

The Church and the Synagogue



The Synagogue the Historic Basis of the Church.

[31] The Church Postulates the Synagogue:

These notes treat of the Church considered in her Divine constitution. Now, if, on the one hand, the Church postulates the Incarnation, even as the incarnation postulates the Trinity—on the other hand, she also postulates, historically, the Synagogue, of which she professes to be “the fulfilment,” the perfection and universal expansion.

“Judæi quorum nos successores et posteri sumus” (Lactant. de Inst., l. 5).

It is, therefore, quite in order, here, to turn, momentarily at least, to the old Synagogue for the tap-roots of Catholicity, viz., the Trinity, the Incarnation, etc.

Hence this cursory glance at some of the oldest and most venerable traditions of the Synagogue, particularly with regard to the two mysteries just named. It is time to speak plainly and unreservedly: a system of Christian apologetics which ignores the treasures of Jewish tradition unavoidably puts the intelligent reader in mind of the play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out. It is a structure without a foundation. Naturally, Manuals of Theology that indulge in such omissions leave their students helpless and at the mercy alike of Jewish opponents and of agnostics who look upon the Church as the sly inventor of her entire dogmatic creed—a creed which, nevertheless, dates, in essence, from the very first day of creation.

[32] The Synagogue and Divine Tradition:

As the embodiment and visible organ of revealed Truth, *the Catholic Church is the Synagogue perfected and universalised.*