

man and woman should honestly stand in the ways and see for themselves, making earnest enquiries for the old paths in order that they might walk therein; as whatever is new in religion, from the very nature of things, is obviously of the devil, being added by him, through those whom he influences, to the old religion which Christ himself left, and which is now found in the Holy Scriptures. Nor will it require much learning to set the honest inquirer right on this matter,—“Stand ye in the ways, and ask for the old paths.”

There are two kinds of Christian societies among us; the Divine Society, the Church, and the human societies, about 354 of them which we know by the name of sects. Out of their own mouths we judge them. The former claims to have originated in Christ and that he himself clothed her with the authority which she possesses to-day, and in this claim all history confirms her; but not one of the 354 sects dare say that they existed in the beginning of Christianity; one calls John Brown their founder, another John Calvin, another Alexander Campbell, and another Joe Smith and Brigham Young. Not one of them ever pretend to say that the Lord himself, or his holy Apostles, belonged to their sect. And if their ministry did not commence with Christ and His twelve Apostles, they need not blame us if we cannot regard them as His Ambassadors, simply because they were not in existence when the Christian Priesthood was formed by Divine authority, and when the Great Head promised to be with them and their successors unto the end of the world. The ministerial

appointment must either be of Heaven, or of men, if of Heaven it must have commenced when Heaven was upon earth in the person of Christ, but if of Men, they must only be regarded as without Divine authority, and just as the officers of a temperance or any other human society who never claim any Divine authority derived to them from the beginning; and as a bad deed of property may be transferred to a thousand hands, and if bad in the beginning it necessarily will remain bad through the whole chain of title. Just so with any sectarian ministry; if it was not given by Christ in the beginning, but originated at any period since his ascension into heaven it is spurious; for if spurious in the beginning, it will remain spurious unto the end. The honest man, even with a very limited knowledge, will not have much difficulty to understand this. By this process of reasoning he can proceed until he be able distinctly to distinguish the divinely appointed society, the Church with her ministry, the Christian Priesthood, from all societies of human appointment which to distinguish them from the divine society we call sects—the members of which say of the former, “we will not walk therein,” although God himself says in his Holy Word, “ask for the old paths, and walk therein, but they said, we will not walk therein.”

The Editor of the present Magazine intends to confine his teaching to the written Word, as whatever cannot be proved by that is not required of any man to be believed to his soul's salvation, and by adhering closely to Christ he hopes to be able to benefit his fellow men. The Editor is not alone in this