

gion. This is sometimes called the *Catholic*, or *universal Church*, because constituted of all the *professors of Christianity*, in the world, to whatever sects or parties they may belong; and hence the absurdity of applying the term *Catholic*, which signifies *universal*, to that very small portion of it, the *Church of Rome*. In primitive times, before christians had any stated *buildings*, they worshipped in *private houses*; the people that had been converted to God meeting together in some one dwelling house of a fellow convert, more convenient and capacious than the rest; hence the *Church that was in the house of Aquila and Priscilla*, Rom. xvi. 3, 5, and I Cor. xv., 19; and the *Church that was in the house of Nymphas*, Col. iv., 15. "In the proper use of this word, there can be no such thing as *The Church*, exclusively. There may be, *A Church*, and the *Churches*, signifying a *particular congregation*; or the different assemblies of religious people; and hence the Church of Rome, by applying it exclusively to itself, abuses the term, and acts as ridiculously, as it does absurdly. *Church* is very properly defined in the 19th Article of the Church of England, to be 'a congregation of faithful men, in the which the pure word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered, according to Christ's ordinance.'"

Now out of a great number of texts of Scripture, in which the words *Church* and *Churches* are used, the following will be quite sufficient to show that they are to be understood according to the meanings just mentioned:—"And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."—Acts ii. 47. "Then had the Churches rest, throughout all Judea, and Galilee, and Samaria, and were edified, and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."—Acts ix 31. "Then pleased it the Apostles and elders, with the whole Church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch, with Paul and Barnabas."—Acts xv. 22. Here we see a "*whole Church*" mentioned, distinct from all the Apostles and Elders. Now who composed this *Church*? certainly *laymen* only, for the Apostles and Elders are separately named. But further, "And so were the Churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily."—Acts xvi. 4. Who will believe that all these "*Churches*"