

LECTURE BY REV. FATHER LENNON,

(OF HAMILTON),

Delivered in the Roman Catholic Church, Strathroy, on Sunday evening, Oct. 29th, 1876, as reported in the Strathroy WESTERN DISPATCH of Nov. 1st, 1876.

Father Lennon, on coming forward, announced as his text—"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism."—St. Paul, Eph. iv., 5.

Beloved brethren, before our blessed Lord left the world to return to the bosom of his heavenly Father, He chose twelve poor, illiterate men, whom he formed into a society which he called His Church. This Church He commissioned to continue the work He began, which was to convert all men. He commanded all men to hear and enter this Church under pain of eternal damnation. "He that will not hear this Church, let him be as the heathen and the publican."

This Church He built on an impregnable rock, against which the powers of hell would rage in vain, and, finally, He promised that He would remain with her, guiding and protecting her till the end of time.

This Church must be visible, it must have certain infallible characteristics, or distinguishing marks, to show that it is really the work of God and not the fabrication of man. These distinguishing marks of the Divinity of the Church are: Unity, Sanctity, Catholicity and Apostolicity. This evening, we will confine ourselves to prove the unity of the Church, viz., that the Church of Christ must be one—that the Catholic Church possesses this Divine mark of the Christian Church—and, finally, that she alone can lay any claim to unity, and consequently, she alone is the Church established by Christ on earth, out of which there is no hope of salvation.

Whatever proceeds from God must reflect one or more of his attributes and perfections, and as the Church is the work of God, it must necessarily possess in the supremest degree some of the Divine attributes; and as God is essentially one and indivisible, the Church, which is the noblest work of the Divinity, must show forth this essential attribute of the Godhead.

The Church should be one, which, according to theologians, means she should be one in faith, one in worship, one in ministry.

Unity of faith consists in the profession of the same doctrine and teachings, so that whoever rejects a single article forming a part of this doctrine is a heretic and out of the way of salvation.