

• THE

Knox College Monthly

—AND—

PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

VOL. X.

AUGUST, 1889.

No. 4.

THE BIBLE MANY, YET ONE.*

HE who believes the Bible to be the Word of God believes a fundamental truth for which he ought to have clear and conclusive evidence. It assumes to speak with great authority in the name of God on the most momentous of all subjects, and to be a record of His Divine will. Such is the nature of the claim which the Book itself puts forth, and which is put forth in its behalf on the part of its advocates. But when this claim to a Divine origin and authority is advanced we need not wonder if evidence be demanded and proofs required as to this special ground of belief. By what arguments is this peculiar claim substantiated? What proofs are available to show that the Bible is what it claims to be: "The Word of God that liveth and abideth forever." The past has shown that the truth, like Him whom it reveals, will always be a sign that shall be spoken against. And hence the need of adequate proof that holy men of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; and that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

*This article is the substance of two lectures given 12 years ago and these were based on Bible Class notes used five years earlier. At that time the discussion was new to my mind. Since then I have seen brief references to the same line of thought. A somewhat fuller discussion is found in Dr. Gibbon's little volume, "Rock as Sand." In reading recently two of his chapters I have taken one valuable thought from his discussion, viz., that the various witnesses are not as *links* in a chain but *strands* in a cable. Any other resemblances between us are purely accidental.