

CHAPTER I.

MR. TAYLOR (for such is avowed to be the name of the author of "Ancient Christianity"), after an introductory discussion, sets out with this premiss, which will be readily conceded, that if there is any one point upon which it can be clearly proved that the ancient Church was from the very beginning radically wrong, and continued so universally down to the time of the Reformation, so that the test, "semper, ubique et ab omnibus" will apply to this one point; then it must be granted that the authority of the ancient Church need not be much accounted of. He then asserts that these requirements will apply, unquestionably and fully, to the ancient doctrine and practice of *religious celibacy*; which he thenceforward sets himself to prove: and upon this he confidently relies that all enlightened persons and good Protestants will for the time to come throw the Fathers overboard, as authorities in matters of religion.

It was impossible that Mr. Taylor should do otherwise than lower himself in the eyes of all well-judging and candid persons, by the tone he assumes to-

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² Ibid

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