

THE HOME & FOREIGN RECORD

OF THE
CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1873.

Vol. XII.

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THE CHURCH'S IDENTITY.

A great argument with the two apostate Churches and the one reformed Church, which pride themselves upon their episcopacy, by which they seek to make sure their position, and overthrow the foundations of the true reformation Churches, is that of the Church's continuity. "We," says the Romanist "were once a church of Christ; you don't deny that; you accept Augustine and Ambrose, the martyrs of the many persecutions, the pious refugees in the silent Catacombs, Clement and Hermas and Paul's many disciples as members of the true Church. This Church over which Pius IX rules is the same Church, and you must consequently accept it." It is this same illogical reasoning that led the Church of England, while other Churches universally swept their houses clean, to leave untouched the figure that successive ordination from the apostles is necessary to the existence of a Church of Christ. It is this same idea carried out to legitimate consequences that is leading hundreds in the Church of England to look upon the Church of Rome as the true Church, and thus prepares the way for a larger apostacy than any we have yet seen. If the idea of apostolical succession be true, this is no apostacy but a proper recognition of the apostolic Church.

There is not a word in the Bible about the continuity of the Church in any line of succession save that of the Holy Spirit. As a voucher for the opposite we have the history of God's ancient people the Jews, cast off, superseded by the Gentiles. Thus Rome has been cast off for her sins, while nations that at the time of her orthodoxy were barbarian and pagan,