

founders of the Christian Church, we find them constantly employed in establishing Churches wherever the Gospel was received. But what kind of Churches? Were they all called by different names, like the numerous sects of the present day? Did they establish, or organize, five or six different kind of Churches in the same city, or in the same place; each having a different creed, and a different way of thinking and of acting? O! let us not, for one moment, suppose such a thing. There was indeed more than one congregation in some cities or countries, but they were all under one head, or bishop;—they all had the same creed;—they were all governed by the same laws;—and they all worshipped God in the same manner, and with the same words. The Apostles took good care to keep “the multitude of them that believed” “*with one accord*”—“*with one mind.*” Their instructions to them were:—“*let there be no divisions among you*”—“*speak ye all the same language*”—“*obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves*”—“*mark them which cause divisions, and avoid them.*”

But it might be asked,—were there not then some divisions and sects among the very first Christians? To this we would answer, that although there were some in one sense, yet there were none *permitted* or *sanctioned* by the Apostles. It is true, there were some persons, even in those blessed days, who would not always submit themselves—who took more liberty than the Gospel allowed them, and who thought that there was no harm in dividing and separating themselves from the main body of Christians, by adopting