

work of propagating the Gospel, saying unto them, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature,' adding in terms terse and awful, 'he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned.'—(St. Mark xvi, 15, 16.) Her Founder left the world, and not unmindful of His last commands forth His Apostles went to find around them gathered an ever increasing circle of men, who formed, in common with themselves, the Christian Church in its earliest development. St. Peter preaches, and, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, three thousand souls were added unto the followers of Christ. 'The Lord,' as we read in the same book, 'added unto the Church daily such as should be saved'—literally, such as were being saved.

"From this Church, primarily established at Jerusalem, offshoots, so to speak, spread, and spread with wonderful rapidity. Witness the Epistles, addressed by St. Paul to the Church at Rome, at Corinth, at Ephesus, at Thessalonica, at Philippi, in Gallatia. But although her offshoots were many, the Church remained one—one in faith—one in doctrine—one in discipline—one in practice; a vine, with branches all deriving their vitality from the parent stem; a society with its members all as indissolubly united as are the members of the human body.

"Her Founder had likened the kingdom of heaven, in other words, the Church, to 'a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.'—(Matthew xiii, 31, 32.) Year after year proved