

HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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THE Lord's Supper is an historical memorial of important transactions, — a perpetual witness to the truth of the Christian religion. That we may judge of its value in this respect, we must take a brief view of the nature of such memorials.

Monuments and commemorations of past events have been in use among almost every people. These have mostly taken the form either of some remarkable structure, as a heap of stones, an altar, or a column; or of some national observance, as a feast, or a pilgrimage.

The monumental structure bears witness through succeeding ages to the occasion on which it was erected, even if no inscription be engraved upon it; because they who witnessed its erection hand down the memory of that event, and the transactions connected with it, to their children, and they to theirs, and these to still following generations. True, the traditional account may by time be blended with error; but this is most likely to be the case in monuments of merely local interest. If we find substantially the same account given of any monument, the work of human hands, by the widely scattered descendants of those who witnessed its erection, we have strong reason to believe that this account is true.

A heap of stones, an altar, or a pillar, may crumble to decay. But the record engraven on the customs of a people cannot be destroyed, except by the destruction of