

AN
EXPOSITION

OF

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE,

AS TAUGHT IN THE
PROTESTANT CHURCH

OF THE
UNITED BROTHERN,

OR,

UNITAS FRATRUM.

WRITTEN IN GERMAN,

By AUGUST GOTTLIEB SPANGENBERG.

WITH A PREFACE,

By BENJAMIN LA TROBE.

LONDON:

Printed by W. and A. STRAHAN;

And Sold by J. ROBSON, in Bond-street; T. CADELL, in the Strand
C. DILLY, in the Poultry; J. STOCKDALE, Piccadilly; and at the
Settlements and Chapels of the Congregations of the BRETHREN.

MDCCLXXXIV.

“ together every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine,
 “ hath a tongue,” (that is, he speaks in a foreign language)
 “ hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things
 “ be done to edifying, Let the prophets” (that is, such
 as speak unto edification, and exhortation, and comfort,
 1 Cor. xiv. 3.) “ speak two or three, and let the others
 “ judge. If any thing be revealed to another,” (that is,
 if so be that this or another thing be by the Holy Ghost
 made plain, or disclosed to him that sitteth by,) “ let the
 “ first hold his peace: For ye may all prophesy, one by one,
 “ that all may learn, and all may be comforted. Let your
 “ women keep silence in the churches, for it is not per-
 “ mitted unto them to speak—these are the commandments
 “ of the Lord—let all things be done decently, and in
 “ order,” 1 Cor. xiv. 26, &c.

§ 245.

AMONGST many things, which might be said of the church of Christ of that time, two points only remain yet to be observed. The first has a reference to the preaching among the heathen, and the second to the elders and teachers.

Our Saviour, even before his death on the cross, had said to his disciples; “ Ye have not chosen me, but I have
 “ chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and
 “ bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain,” John, xv. 16. And, after his resurrection, he said to them, “ Go
 “ ye into all the world, and *preach the Gospel to every*
 “ *creature,*” (that is, to all the heathen) Mark, xvi. 15.
 “ Go and *teach all nations* - and lo, I am with you alway,
 “ even unto the end of the world,” Matt. xxviii. 19, 20.

But this the church of Christ did not so understand, as if this had been commanded the apostles alone, to the exclusion of all other persons. Neither indeed could it be so taken, because the words are annexed, “ Lo, I am with
 “ you *alway, even unto the end of the world.*” For, if the
 preaching

preaching among the heathen was to have ceased with the apostles, how could our Saviour have said, "I am always with you, *even unto the end of the world?*"

But that the church of Christ has believed, that the preaching among the heathen was to continue always (yet all in a way conformable to the mind of Jesus) the following words of John indicate: "Beloved, thou dost faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers, who have borne witness of thy charity before the church; whom, if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well. Because that for his name's sake, they went forth taking nothing of the Gentiles" (that is, they preached the Gospel without charge, as Paul did likewise, 1 Cor. ix. 18.) "we therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellow-helpers to the truth," 3 John, 5, &c.

These were not the apostles, but other brethren, who found themselves moved to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles, or Heathen. The words, "ye should shew forth the praises of him, who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light," 1 Pet. ii. 9. do certainly speak not alone concerning the ministry in the Gospel among the heathen, but neither do they exclude it. If the church of Christ, after the apostolic times, had not believed that the words of Christ, "Preach the Gospel to every creature," were obligatory upon them; many nations, who were afterwards brought to Christ, would be yet sitting in darkness, and know nothing of Christ. And whereas there are many thousands of the heathen, who to this very day have heard nothing of the Gospel; therefore our Saviour's words, "Preach the Gospel to every creature," continues for the same reason now, as then, in great esteem in his church,