things ceased, and men ceased to be in-
spired to write Scripture, and the Scrip-
ture was pronounced full and complete,
sealed up as it were, that moment the
people called Zion are banished from the
face of the earth; or in other words the
Church of the living God has no exis-
tence thereon.

There was a Zion on the earth in the
first century of the Christian era. They
were Christians; they believed in Christ;
they worshiped Christ, they received his
ordinances, they were filled with the
spirit of revelation, they had their in-
spired prophets and revelators; they had
their heavenly visions; they had the min-
istration of angels; they could hear the
voice of God; they could behold in heav-
enly vision the face of the Lord Jesus
Christ after he had ascended to his Fa-
ther and was glorified at his right hand.
They bore testimony that they had seen
him, that he had conversed with them
and that he had communicated his will
unto them. These were Christians; that
may be pronounced Zion.

What existed after this? The Apos-
tles were put to death; they were hunted
from nation to nation; they wandered
about in sheepskins and goatskins in the
dens and caves of the earth, of whom
the world was unworthy. Their follow-
ers were put to death by hundreds, by
thousands, by tens of thousands; and
after a while there sprang up a peo-
ple that pretended to be Christians—
followers of the meek and lowly Jesus,
having no apostles, no inspired men,
no revelation, no ministration of an-
gels, none of the characteristics, except
a few forms, of the Christian Church
as it existed in the first century of
the Christian era. This class of men,
calling themselves Christian, uniting
with the various forms of the pagan
religion, adopting many of their cere-
monies and institutions, became very
popular, and finally some of the pagans
embraced Christianity and were placed,
as it were, upon the throne, and what
they termed Christianity became very
popular indeed. How long has this or-
der of things existed, this dreadful apos-
tasy, this class of people that pronounced
themselves Zion, or Christians, without
any of the characteristics of Zion? It
has existed for some sixteen or seven-
teen centuries. It has spread itself and
grown and gone into the four quarters of
the earth. It is the great ecclesiastical
power that is spoken of by the revelator
John, and called by him the most corrupt
and most wicked of all the powers of the
earth, under the name of spiritual Baby-
lon, or in other words Babel, which sig-
nifies confusion. This great and corrupt
power is also represented by John as pre-
senting a golden cup to the nations, full
of all manner of filthiness and abomina-
tions.

She is termed, in other places, by
the same prophet, "The whore of all the
earth," making the nations drink of the
wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Some three centuries ago there came
out some excellent men, named Mar-
tin Luther, John Calvin and many
others that might be mentioned, who
protested against the wickedness and
abominations of the Church wherein
they had been educated, and of which
they had been members. Because of
their protestations against the mother
Church they were called Protestants.
They pronounced her the whore of all
the earth; they declared that
she had no authority, that she had
none of the blessings and gifts which
characterized the ancient Christians.
They came out and established other
Churches. The Lutheran Church pre-
vailed in Germany and various por-
tions of northern Europe. The Calvin-
ist Church or Presbyterian Church