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(From an Engraving, dated March 31, 1777, in the possession of the authorities of Whitefield Tabernacle, London.)

THE
GOSPEL MAGAZINE

AND

PROTESTANT BEACON.

"COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, SAITH YOUR GOD."

"ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE."

"JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TO-DAY, AND FOR EVER." "WHOM TO
KNOW IS LIFE ETERNAL."

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MAGAZINE last century, for Popery has made an organized and too successful invasion of England during the past seventy years, and the National Church itself, in a section of its clergy and laity, has become an active and powerful ally of the Papacy. The Bishops personally, in many instances, are in sympathy with Sacerdotalism, and consequently avoid the adoption of energetic practical measures to purge the Church of unfaithful ministers. Doctrines, indistinguishable from those held by the corrupt Roman Church, are boldly taught from thousands of Anglican pulpits, and secret confession to pseudo priests is encouraged and extensively practised. The Mass Sacrifice, with its attendant gross idolatry, is openly celebrated in churches dedicated by the Reformers to the pure and simple worship of God; while crucifixes, crosses, images, and pictures are set before the congregations for veneration and adoration.

Thus is the National Faith of England betrayed by its accredited exponents and responsible advocates. In the rural districts of the country, where the people have no choice of a place of worship, and therefore attend their parish churches, the innovations of Romish Ritualism are working deadly ravages among souls, especially among the young. The religious instruction imparted by the Romanizing Clergy in their parochial schools is silently but surely perverting large numbers of children, and preparing them for the acceptance of the plenary claims of the Papal Antichrist. A flood of controversial literature is being issued from the Roman Catholic Press, and is circulating among all classes of Society, the Jesuits and other skilled literary agents of the Propaganda having evidently received a commission from their superiors to abandon the old policy of silence.

To meet these aggressive methods, the Protestant and Evangelical PRESS appears to be the most powerful instrument. To be effective, however, it obviously must be directed by minds trained in an accurate knowledge of the doctrines, history, and tactics of the Papacy, and expert in the use of those spiritual weapons wherewith the leaders of the Reformation fought and won the battle of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The invincible

Sword of the SPIRIT, the Word of GOD, has lost neither of its double edges. It is still at the command of faith for the purposes of both attack and defence. The principles of revealed Truth undergo no change, from century to century, nor are the promises of a Covenant GOD to His witnesses and servants liable to any modification. They are to-day, as from the days of eternity past, "Yea and Amen, in CHRIST JESUS"; and the faithful followers of the LAMB are thereby assured of final victory for the cause of "the Everlasting Gospel" (Rev. xiv. 6). The substance of that for which "the Church of the Firstborn" is called upon to fight a good fight is the whole counsel of the GOD of all Grace (Acts xx. 27). This conflict the saints, by the debt of redemption which they owe to the CRUCIFIED ONE, dare not evade. The love of CHRIST constrains them, and, for that love's sake, they count it all joy to "endure hardness" at the hands of apostate Christendom and the world which lieth in the Wicked One.

It is under a deep, and ever deepening, conviction of these solemn obligations that the GOSPEL MAGAZINE persistently bears witness for the Faith once for all delivered to the saints, and continues to lift up its voice against those Antichristian developments which are certainly overthrowing the Evangelical faith of all Christian denominations. For, while Romish ceremonialism and priestly pretensions are subverting the foundations of the Reformed National Church, the deadly errors of Rationalism, combined with Down-grade world-pleasing methods of "religious" enterprise, are eating out the spiritual life of our Non-conforming—once Puritan—denominations. The direct antidote for this deplorable condition of things is the definite, prayerful, and uncompromising re-assertion of Scriptural doctrine. The HOLY GHOST, by that instrumentality is able to confound all the crafty devices of SATAN, and to circumvent the schemes of men of reprobate mind.

The confidence of this blessed truth inspires us to be "steadfast and unmovable" in the work which the LORD has given us to do editorially in the interests of His precious truth. That confidence, we feel, is fully shared with us by those valued brethren and

sisters in CHRIST who contribute to our monthly pages. To those our fellow-labourers and fellow-soldiers we here offer our loving thanks, with a cordial assurance of our prayers; for, apart from their generous practical fellowship, the burden of conducting a publication such as this time-honoured Evangelical Magazine would prove to be a service beyond our limited powers.

May the united services of writers and readers, through the blessing of the SPIRIT OF GRACE, continue to maintain the Evangelical credit of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE which, in the editorial hands of TOPLADY—upwards of a hundred years ago—and subsequently in those of such faithful witnesses for the truth of GOD as the beloved Dr. DOUDNEY and Mr. GEORGE COWELL, has never temporized in its testimony nor abated jot or tittle of the revealed will of the MOST HIGH in order to please the perverted free-will and pride of fallen man.

Again we cast ourselves on the kind indulgence of our Christian readers, for we are painfully conscious of manifold imperfections in the discharge of the responsible duties of the Editorial office, and we often mourn over them and confess them to the LORD. The knowledge that prayer is not lacking for our spiritual guidance, and the assurance that we “live in the hearts” of many of the LORD’s faithful remembrancers, supply a precious compensation in our tried experience, and cheer us in our humble efforts to feed “the flock of slaughter” with sound pasture, and to magnify the saving grace of the TRIUNE JEHOVAH.

Only one closing word—a loving request. Will our readers help forward the well-proved objects of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE by bringing them under the notice of their Christian friends, at home and abroad? Such a mission in the interests of Protestant and Evangelical principles is one in which the LORD’s believing people, without distinction, can all take an influential part.

Brethren beloved, the prayer of PAUL the Apostle is, finally, our own—“That ye stand fast in one spirit, *with one mind striving together for the Faith of the Gospel.*”

THE EDITOR.

December 1st, 1899.