

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.”

VOL. XL.—NEW SERIES.

London:

S. ARNOLD, 74, STRAND, W.C.

1905.

P R E F A C E .

THE present Volume represents the conclusion of the one-hundred-and-fortieth year since the production of the first number of THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE. A bound copy of the Publication for 1766 lies on our desk as we write. It is a time-soiled relic of the faithful labours of the godly men in whose hearts was divinely implanted the original idea of establishing an organ whose leading objects should be to proclaim, doctrinally and experimentally, the whole counsel of GOD, to minister to the spiritual necessities of His elect people, to trace for their guidance "the footsteps of the flock," to witness, without compromise, against every form of religious error and false system and profession, and to seek, in the SPIRIT of CHRIST, to further the highest interests of GOD'S kingdom upon earth.

The earlier history of this venerable monthly MAGAZINE—the oldest now extant—coincides with the most fruitful years of the great Spiritual Revival of the eighteenth century. Its pages record the utterances of many of the most eminent leaders of that SPIRIT-begotten movement in both prose and verse. Indeed, many of the Evangelical hymns which first saw the light in these pages hold a foremost place to-day in the worship of the Christian churches. Not a few of the sound, distinctive theological articles published upwards of a hundred years ago in this MAGAZINE have been reprinted in later times, and read with pleasure and profit by later generations. By the grace of GOD, the dogmatic teaching maintained by the various Editors has been jealously Scriptural; hence, honouring to the Covenant character of JEHOVAH, humbling to the pride of fallen man, and promoting edification, consolation, and holiness among all who "name the Name of CHRIST." The GOSPEL MAGAZINE has never been the organ of a party denomination. "The household of Faith," apart from earthly denominationalism, possesses in it a common "means of grace," designed to meet every phase of Christian experience, a counsellor to advise, according to the wisdom which the HOLY SPIRIT is pleased to vouchsafe, and a treasury of Gospel truth fitted to meet the needs of CHRIST'S redeemed flock.

Nearly eleven years have now elapsed since the Editorship, which the saintly Author of the hymn "Rock of Ages, cleft for me" once discharged, fell to our lot in the Divine Providence. Ever conscious of personal unworthiness to discharge the duties of such a responsible office, it has been our humble and prayerful aim to "preach not ourselves, but CHRIST JESUS the LORD," and to be the helpful servants of His beloved saints for "His sake." Never, perhaps, was the call more loud than it is to-day that the fundamental doctrines of Revealed Truth should be insisted upon, reiterated, and expounded in all their practical and experimental aspects. The Rationalism and Sacerdotalism of the past sixty years have brought forth a terrible harvest, and to-day the churches are dominated by a Christianity which is "without CHRIST," which follows "another JESUS," which, so far as vital regeneration is concerned, appears "not so much as to have heard whether there be any HOLY GHOST." The souls of GOD's living people—"the flock of slaughter"—are denied the pure pastures of the Gospel of the grace of GOD—which alone can satisfy them—and are proffered a religion which denies the Fall, the miraculous birth of CHRIST, His Atonement on Calvary, His Resurrection from the grave, His GOD-HEAD, His perfect knowledge, the reality of His miracles, and the plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The great Apostasy of the last days is indeed in active process. The Church and the World have entered into a confederacy, and our ecclesiastical leaders are among the most eminent patrons of the Satanic alliance. The silver trumpet of the Gospel of GOD's sovereign grace, therefore, must sound an alarm in Zion. The true followers of CHRIST must seek closer fellowship with Him and with one another, and, in His promised strength, more "earnestly contend for the Faith, once delivered unto the saints."

This momentous outlook renders a distinctive publication, such as the GOSPEL MAGAZINE, a specially suitable medium for Christian intercommunication, and mutual ministration. We, therefore, hope that the forthcoming year—the 141st of its history—will witness for it a widened sphere of practical usefulness, with an increase in its spiritual fruitfulness, and a richer measure of glory to the TRI-UNE GOD of our salvation. AMEN.

THE EDITOR.

CLIFTON, *December*, 1905.