



THE REV. RICHARD CORNALL

*Vicar of Emmanuel, Bristol.*

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."

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## PREFACE.

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WITH this volume one hundred and forty-one years complete their eventful course since the GOSPEL MAGAZINE first saw the light; and the twelfth year of our Editorship therewith co-terminates, excepting three months. Many solemn reflections necessarily associate themselves with the publication of these prefatory lines. And first, we would gratefully acknowledge "the good hand" of our GOD upon us in the responsible work of conducting this time-honoured periodical. "Hitherto hath the LORD helped us," supplying all need, alike in counsel and guidance, and bearing with paternal consideration the manifold defects of the instrument He has deigned to select for the work.

The Evangelical principles and Divine truths which the founders of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE, in 1766, designed it should uphold, are as dear to-day to the household of faith as they were ever of old; and the uncompromising maintenance of them is a sacred duty which was never more urgently demanded than at the present crisis in the religious history of our beloved country. Moreover, the HOLY SPIRIT continues to make these pages fruitful in edification and consolation to the souls of many of our readers at home and abroad. Several most encouraging instances of spiritual help afforded by the testimony borne to the distinctive doctrines of GOD'S \*grace have recently come to our knowledge. One such reached our hands since we commenced to pen these prefatory lines. A beloved brother, writing to us of his much-afflicted wife—now with the LORD—says: "I can assure you how much she loved and respected you for the Truth's sake. GOD was pleased to use you in her case for her soul's good and His honour and glory. May GOD bless you, and continue to make you a blessing to His people. I can say I felt very much pleasure in reading your 'FAMILY PORTION' in the November MAGAZINE ('OUT OF WEAKNESS MADE STRONG'), and felt to love poor DAVID; and, may I add, the writer also?" Such tokens that

our labours, and those of our beloved fellow-workers, are "not in vain in the LORD" are very precious and also stimulating. However the old truths of the Everlasting Covenant and the old paths trodden by the saints of GOD in the long past may be despised and accounted "narrow" and out of date in the twentieth century, there still remains a remnant whom the LORD our GOD has called, and these, well knowing "the joyful sound"—because the SPIRIT of TRUTH and of REVELATION has instructed their souls—find their highest delight in JEHOVAH'S Covenant verities and in following the well-beaten track in which the worthies of past ages were divinely led and sustained till they entered the glorious gates of the New Jerusalem.

It has been especially for "the flock of slaughter," "the poor of the flock," the lambs and the little ones of the fold, that the GOSPEL MAGAZINE has, during its unprecedented course—as a religious publication—sought diligently to provide. On its opening page is inscribed the great purpose of its mission—"Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God." Closely associated with this is the spirit in which the mission is discharged, namely, one of love towards all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity—"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the SPIRIT in the bond of peace." And last, the banner displayed "because of the truth" bears, as its legend, the ineffable words—"JESUS CHRIST, the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever." Green pastures and quiet waters are thus richly presented to the scattered members of CHRIST'S "little flock," that they may eat and drink, rest, and be satisfied. The like hallowed objects will, as sovereign and sufficient grace is afforded, continue to be pursued. Let, then, the intercessory prayers of our affectionately esteemed readers and follow-labourers in this sacred service go up constantly to the Mercy-seat for ever-increasing measures of the blessing of our Covenant GOD on "the work of our hands," that He may be greatly glorified, that His dear people may be truly edified and consoled, that the Kingdom of CHRIST may be promoted effectually, and that the blessed hope of the appearing of our adorable IMMANUEL may be hastened.

THE EDITOR.

CLIFTON, *December*, 1906.