

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. XLII.—NEW SERIES.

London :

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

1907.

PREFACE.

To take up the pen and inscribe a Preface for another completed volume of this venerable MAGAZINE must necessarily entail much searching of heart upon its conductor—whoever he may be. But to one who realizes very painfully a sense of personal unworthiness to occupy the honoured editorial chair which, for upwards of one hundred and forty years, has been filled by servants of CHRIST pre-eminent for their spiritual gifts and abounding labours in the cause of GOD'S Covenant Truth, it is especially humbling. When, in the spring of 1895, we were unexpectedly called upon to take charge of this Publication as editorial successor to the beloved Mr. GEORGE COWELL, the gracious writer of "Wayside Notes" for forty-six years, we shrank from the sacred responsibilities inseparable from the post. The experience of nearly thirteen years' editorial service, however, has fully justified simple reliance on the exceeding great and precious promises of our Covenant-keeping GOD; and, notwithstanding our many infirmities and shortcomings, we can gratefully and praisefully testify, "Having therefore obtained help of GOD, we continue unto this day," witnessing to both small and great the glorious things which GOD has spoken concerning His eternal purposes of love and grace in and through His dear SON.

The distinctive truths advocated and defended by our MAGAZINE through the long period above-named are not, and have never been, popular in Christendom. There is, however, a remnant, according to the election of grace, to whose souls the flesh-humbling verities of Divine revelation are sweeter than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb. To such the HOLY SPIRIT has ever graciously made the testimony of our pages as green pastures and "waters of quietness." We are encouraged to believe that the tracings of the experimental footsteps of the flock by the various writers who lovingly contribute to our pages, blended with a clear statement of the precious doctrines of GOD'S sovereign grace, attract many of CHRIST'S believing followers, who

above all things desire the "assurance of faith"—establishment on the foundation of the unfailing promises of their Covenant God. Such humble souls refuse to depend on any other foundation. Nothing less stable than the eternal decrees of JEHOVAH'S infinite love, as inscribed in His written Word, meets the needs of the elect children of the MOST HIGH.

The GOSPEL MAGAZINE has, in many families, been read by several generations in succession. These affectionately account the Publication a domestic property. They familiarly speak of it as their "family" Magazine. The unity of the SPIRIT thus becomes a felt reality. Hearts are drawn one to another in endearing bonds of holy fellowship, and there is cultivated a sacred agreement among the people of GOD as they journey onward to the City of Habitation—though, in many cases, they never meet in person, and will not until they have severally passed through the gates of pearl at close of their earthly pilgrimage, and together unite in the praises of their adorable REDEEMER.

To the glory of GOD, we record the fact that many cheering indications were granted during the past year that our poor labours were owned of the SPIRIT to souls. We owe this largely to our dear readers. Their constant prayers "avail much." We therefore solicit a continuance of them. The Trustees, the Editor, and the Writers together, while thanking their beloved circle of friends for the fellowship of their prayers hitherto, now invite them to plead for a still fuller manifestation of the SPIRIT'S power through the agency of dear TOPLADY'S venerable Publication, remembering the inspired words of the Psalmist, "They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to show that the LORD is upright."

THE EDITOR.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL,
December, 1907.