

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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P R E F A C E .

ANOTHER year—the eighteenth—of our EDITORIAL oversight of dear AUGUSTUS TOPLADY'S venerated MAGAZINE is fast nearing its close. We mourn its manifold personal defects, and failures. It bears, also, the impress of human frailty, which, may our heavenly FATHER, for CHRIST'S dear sake, graciously pity and forgive; albeit, we humbly commit the undertaking, and its objects, entirely into His holy keeping, and direction.

Our sole desire is that He may be glorified—FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT; and that His blood-bought Church may continually bring honour to His blessed Name.

The LORD is taking to Himself just now, extensively, His pilgrim saints, among them at the close of last month, our beloved brother, the Rev. J. N. WORSFOLD, a diligent reader of, and an occasional contributor to, dear TOPLADY'S pages, and a sturdy patron of the historic Church of the Piedmontese Valleys. Both GOD'S dear servant and the late beloved Miss KATE BROWN, of Folkestone, who to the end of a devoted life of self-denial comforted and strengthened

many of the LORD'S suffering children in their latest depths of affliction, herself exchanged a specially painful cross for a fadeless crown granted to her by the gentle and gracious hand of her loved REDEEMER. These dear followers of their LORD were diligent and helpful contributors to our pages, and both during the expiring year enriched our sheets for the last time!

Such service to the blessed cause of our adorable MASTER is deeply prized by the EDITOR and his fellow-labourers, while the lovely example their holy testimony has left among us will ever be affectionately remembered. This sacred bond may well stimulate us as helpers of each other's edification and fruitfulness, while it also serves as a spiritual incentive to seek growth in Divine knowledge and the exercise of such gifts as the HOLY SPIRIT may be pleased to confer.

We cannot here fail to dwell upon the special tenderness of our GOD and FATHER in granting us to see the JUBILEE of the CLIFTON CONFERENCE in the autumn of the closing year. Bless the LORD, O our souls, for the bestowment upon us of this singular indulgence of His favour, and may the sweet realization of His imminently approaching ADVENT continue to fill our waiting souls with ever increasing hope and joy unspeakable! Much blessed truth was spoken by dear brethren during the CONFERENCE, which greatly refreshed our chastened spirits, and quickened our

humble, expectant hopes. The assurance of His speedy coming has gladdened the hearts and hopes of very many of the LORD'S people, and they believe the time has actually dawned when their BELOVED bids them "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

The sweet and sure words of His lips drop as heavenly honey from above, and—by His grace—we are ready to go forth to meet Him! "Till He come"—we patiently wait, leaning hopefully on our beloved LORD.

THE EDITOR.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL.