

P R E F A C E .

ONCE more, through the tender mercy of our God, the sacred and happy duty devolves upon us of penning a Preface to our beloved MAGAZINE,—now completing the one hundred and fiftieth year of its honoured history. The believing prayers of God's dear people are sought that the future career—if the LORD yet tarry in His promised coming—of this, the oldest Evangelical “monthly” extant, may continue to be one rich in blessing. To His Holy Name be all the glory and praise that THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE stands to-day, in doctrine and principle, precisely where it did a century and a half ago.

Our heart renders grateful acknowledgment of the goodness of our TRIUNE JEHOVAH in prospering our humble efforts to therein maintain the glorious truths of the everlasting Gospel. Testimony has again and again been forthcoming in the now fast closing year, that our venerable monthly MAGAZINE is privileged to afford spiritual food and satisfaction to the scattered “little flock.” We praise Him for these encouraging assurances that our labours and those of the valued

brethren and sisters in CHRIST who contribute to its pages, have not been in vain.

To many of us—alas! how many!—the year now drawing to a close has been a year of much trial and affliction; but enough for us that a Covenant God has promised His own people—“As thy days, so shall thy strength be.” On that promise, let us, by the SPIRIT’S enabling grace, implicitly rely. Feeble though we feel ourselves to be, and faint as full often our hearts become, yet let us, to whom “CHRIST is ALL,” humbly pursue, from day to day, the course allotted us, maintaining the strife against sin, the world, and the devil, in the confidence that we are “more than conquerors through Him That loved us.” The closing year has seen many a gap made in the ranks of those contending earnestly for the Faith once delivered unto the saints. Oh! for grace that we, one and all, may be found faithful unto the end.

Truly our lot is cast in momentous times. By terrible things in righteousness the power of JEHOVAH is making itself felt in the earth. Can it be that He is about to fulfil that solemn Scripture—“Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven” (Heb. xii. 26)? The darkness thickens, at home and abroad. But, dear fellow-believers, the night, we believe, is far spent. The day is at hand. The rising SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, in the FATHER’S appointed time, shall scatter every cloud.

Brethren, let us seek to be much *with the Lord* during the hours which remain—*watching, waiting, pleading, hoping*, exhorting one another, and that so much the more as we see the day approaching. Let us look off, and look up by faith unto Him Who sits above all this earthly turmoil. “THE LORD”—*our* LORD—“REIGNETH.”

THE EDITOR.

CLIFTON, BRISTOL,

December, 1915.