

P R E F A C E .

THE December issue calls for the Preface to the one hundred and fifty-fourth volume of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE. What reason there is for gratitude to our COVENANT GOD that, amid all the changes of this prolonged period, ecclesiastical, political, and social, He has preserved this MAGAZINE from becoming defunct, and has enabled its Editors and Contributors to continue, through its means, their testimony to the great doctrines of grace !

The great War endangered the continued existence of this time-honoured publication. The greatly increased cost of production made it necessary for the Trustees to appeal for annual contributions towards the "GOSPEL MAGAZINE" Fund. They devoutly thank God that their appeal has not been in vain. Large numbers of our readers, the poor as well as the more well-to-do, have kindly responded. In dependence, therefore, on the LORD for continual financial support and for His all-sufficient grace, we go forth with confidence and hope. His eyes are upon the great truths of electing love, redeeming grace, and of

regenerating, sanctifying, and glorifying power for which the MAGAZINE stands. It would seem that the great War has given an impetus to the growing apostasy from the truth of GOD. Arminianism, sacerdotalism, rationalism, and latitudinarianism abound. The error of salvation by human merit and bravery is being taught, even by some who claim to be evangelical. The plenary inspiration of Scripture, salvation by grace alone through faith in the blood and righteousness of CHRIST, and the eternal punishment of the wicked, are truths which are being openly denied by professedly Christian teachers. Spiritualism, Russellism, and the doctrines of so-called Christian Scientists are gaining adherents. The truth of GOD is more and more rejected, and the lies of Satan are being more and more believed. Under these circumstances the need for the testimony of this MAGAZINE was never greater.

We are much encouraged by the many letters which we receive from readers at home and abroad indicating the help they receive from our pages. We tender our warm thanks, too, to our kind fellow-helpers, and we ask for the prayers of all our readers that the much-needed wisdom, grace, and strength may be given to the Trustees, the Editor, and his esteemed fellow-workers, as well as to the Publisher, that the important

work of this MAGAZINE may, in an increasing degree, be conducted on lines which the LORD Himself can approve.

We send our warm Christian greetings to all our readers both in the United Kingdom and in the countries overseas. May grace, mercy, and truth be their abundant portion !

THOMAS HOUGHTON,
EDITOR.

WHITINGTON VICARAGE,
STOKE FERRY, NORFOLK,
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