

PREFACE.

IT is with feelings of heartfelt gratitude to our Covenant-keeping GOD that we pen the preface to the one hundred and sixtieth volume of THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE. That a Magazine which stands firmly, by GOD'S grace, for the great doctrines which attribute the salvation of GOD'S people wholly to the electing love of the FATHER, the redeeming love of the SON, and the regenerating love of the HOLY GHOST, should have continued for 160 years is no small ground of thankfulness to GOD.

Such doctrines are not popular. The common doctrine is that salvation is co-operative. GOD, it is suggested, has provided a propitiation, and He bestows grace upon all without exception, but He leaves it to man to exercise his free will whether he will repent and believe in CHRIST or not. In other words, man's salvation, according to the Arminian view, in the last resort, depends upon himself. He has power, so it is suggested, to provide his own faith and repentance. We hold that faith and repentance are Divine gifts, and that therefore salvation is wholly of the LORD. He chose His people in CHRIST. He redeemed them through CHRIST. He regenerates and quickens them by His SPIRIT. He works in them that great change of mind called repentance, and He bestows that faith whereby the penitent sinner leans only on the blood and righteousness of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We bless GOD, therefore, that though the doctrines for which the Trustees of this Magazine stand are not popular, yet the Magazine is welcomed into so many Christian homes, both in the British Isles, in the Colonies, and in some of the most distant islands and countries of the world.

We thank GOD, too, for the enabling grace which He gives to ourselves and to our esteemed fellow-workers to contribute the articles which appear in the Magazine. We have nothing that we did not receive. We have therefore no ground for self-glorification. In so far as the testimony of the Magazine is Scriptural and a means of help and blessing to His people the sole glory must be given to Him.

It is a constant cheer to us to receive letters from readers at home and abroad, testifying to the joy the Magazine brings to their souls, as they meditate on the truths which its writers are enabled to set forth. Many who thus write are invalids or those who are cut off from a Gospel ministry. It is therefore a great joy to realize that the LORD is using the Magazine to minister to the spiritual well-being of many of His scattered people.

The gradual increase in the circulation of the Magazine is another cause of thankfulness to God. We hope our readers will all help to increase the circulation. We recently heard of one lady's paying for seventeen copies of the Magazine to be sent for twelve months to people living in some distant and remote regions of the earth.

We would not forget, too, to bless GOD on behalf of all our Trustees for the continued inflow of funds to enable us to carry on this important testimony to His truth.

We greatly regret to announce that our highly-esteemed publisher (Mr. Samuel Arnold) passed away on November 19th, after a very serious and prolonged illness. He always took a deep interest in the work of the Magazine, and frequently said that the letters of encouragement sent to him so regularly were a means of grace to his own soul. We commend his family to the tender sympathy and earnest prayers of our readers.

In conclusion we earnestly bespeak the prayers of our readers for the Divine blessing on this work. We are in constant need of His enabling grace, and of the wisdom and teaching which come from above.

We pray that the blessing of the LORD which maketh rich may be the abundant portion of all our readers. To all of them in far-off lands, as well as at home, we send warm Christian greetings.

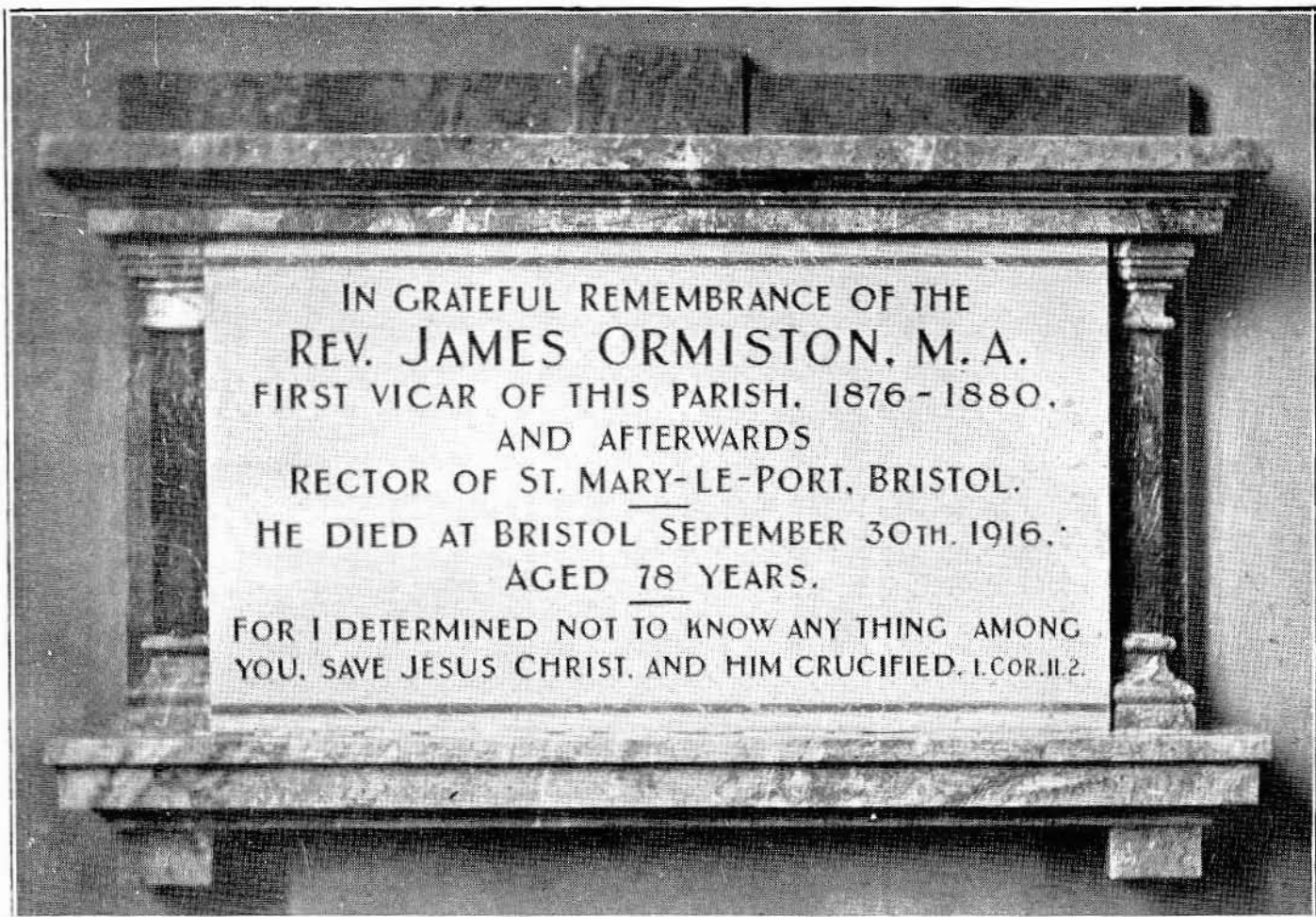
THE EDITOR

(Thomas Houghton).

Whitington Vicarage,

Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.

November 20th, 1925.



THE ABOVE TABLET WAS RECENTLY UNVEILED IN THE PARISH CHURCH
OF OLD HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

(See article "The Memory of the Just is Blessed," in this issue.)