

PREFACE.

THE year 1927, now drawing to a close, has been remarkable in many ways. Here in England the Prayer Book Controversy has come to a head. After many years spent in revision, the Bishops of the Church of England at last presented, to the Convocations, on March 29th, their New Prayer Book in its final form. Then on July 6th the Church Assembly accepted it, 517 voting for it, and only 133 against it. Since then Diocesan Conferences and Synods, under the influence of the Bishops, have by large majorities approved of the New Book, and it now only awaits parliamentary sanction, when it will become the law of the land. We have written nine articles exposing the pernicious character of the Book, and many pamphlets and articles on similar lines have been written and scattered broadcast. Great meetings have been held and resolutions of protest have been passed, and Members of Parliament have been bombarded with letters and resolutions, requesting them to vote against the measure.

Much prayer, too, has ascended and is still ascending to the throne of grace, that GOD would deliver the nation through Parliament from an act of Apostasy

from Bible and Reformation truth. What the issue may be no man can tell.

We know, however, that outward and visible churches may depart from the faith, and their candlesticks may be removed, but the Church of GOD which He hath purchased with His Own blood can never perish.

It is to feed the Church of GOD with the pure truth of the Gospel that THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE exists. Although its Editors have often been decidedly Evangelical clergymen of the Church of England, the Magazine is undenominational in its character.

Its Editors are expected to be men who believe in the electing love of GOD the FATHER, the special, particular and redeeming grace of GOD the SON, and the quickening, regenerating and sanctifying power of GOD the HOLY GHOST.

It is a great cause of thankfulness to the GOD of all grace that we are writing the Preface to the *one hundred and sixty-second volume* of this Magazine. All these many years the Magazine has been kept going. To Him be the glory!

The Trustees are deeply grateful to all the kind friends who have contributed to THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund during the year. We trust such help may be still forthcoming, but in an increasing degree!

To our kind helpers who regularly and gratuitously contribute to our pages we express our warmest thanks, and to all our readers at home, and in distant lands, we send warm Christian greetings.

May the Lord's blessing be our abundant portion, and may He still smile on this effort to spread His truth, and to build up scattered members of His family.

THE EDITOR

(Thomas Houghton).

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