

PREFACE

WITH sincere gratitude and praise to the God of all grace, we write the preface to the volume of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE which completes the *one hundred and seventy-second year of its existence*. It is indeed a wonderful fact that despite the growing rejection of the great doctrines of grace this Magazine still holds on its way. Let us render devout, whole-hearted, and humble thanks to God for this great mercy, and let us also unitedly cry unto Him still to smile on this effort to propagate pure Gospel and Protestant truth. The Magazine humbly stands for a Bible whose original documents are verbally inspired by the Holy Ghost. It believes that a great multitude of sinners which no man can number have been Divinely elected to eternal salvation, specially and particularly redeemed by God the Son, and that they are destined to be regenerated by God the Holy Ghost, and eventually glorified with Him Who loved them and gave Himself for them. These great Bible truths which were taught by the Reformers and Puritans are being increasingly tabooed to-day, even in professed Evangelical circles, but we pray that this Magazine, which seeks to set them forth in a loving and gracious manner, may be increasingly the means of keeping alive in the Church of God the whole counsel of God on these subjects.

We earnestly hope that our readers, realizing the vital importance of these truths, will do all that is

possible to increase the circulation of the Magazine. Those who are able might do well to single out some who are shut off from real Gospel privileges and send regular copies of the Magazine to them.

There can be no doubt that there is a famine of the Word of God in the land, and many who have no place of worship to which they can comfortably go would be glad of the teaching conveyed in the Magazine.

It is highly important, however, that all who are able should themselves subscribe the six shillings a year necessary to bring the Magazine to their doors. We feel the need of emphasizing the importance of more subscribers. Valued readers are being translated to Glory, and every year there is a call for new readers.

The Trustees of the Magazine are very grateful to all our readers who very kindly and regularly send help for the GOSPEL MAGAZINE FUND. They earnestly trust that this help may be regularly continued.

We must also express our warmest thanks to those who regularly contribute to the pages of the Magazine. The many letters we receive show that the testimony of the Magazine is greatly valued by large numbers.

The year has been remarkable for the Coronation of our new King and Queen. As a nation we have reason to thank God for the mercy which provided them to occupy the throne when it became vacant in December last.

Our Lord Himself indicated that the present age

would be marked by wars and rumours of wars, and we all deplore the continuance of the war in Spain, and the terrible outbreak of war between China and Japan. Such conflicts between nations are awful in their character, and we need to pray that our statesmen may continue to use every effort to prevent the area of war from being extended.

The Archbishop has put forth "A Recall to Religion." The question arises, What religion? For ourselves we think that what is needed is to get back to the pure Gospel of the Bible and in obedience to our Lord's command to preach the Gospel to every creature. No new message is needed and no new power. The Gospel, accompanied by the power of the Holy Ghost, is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

In the name of the Trustees we send our warm Christian greetings and best wishes to all our readers, at home and abroad.

THE EDITOR

(*Thomas Houghton*).

*Whitington Vicarage,
Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.
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