

THE PROTESTANT.

'I won't go,' said my uncle, as with folded arms he stood at the window of my study, debating within himself a point where I was equally undecided.

'The weather seems to forbid it, indeed,' I remarked. 'The weather! when did you see me in the character of fair-weather Jack, my good niece? asked the old sailor, somewhat nettled.

A few minutes saw us on the road: but the transient gleam of fair weather was soon followed by a heavier fall of rain.

'There is brightness in the horizon, nevertheless,' remarked my uncle, as he closed the window against the pelting storm; and we will abide patiently the dispersion of those stormy symptoms.

Before we reached our destination in Hyde Park, the weather had sufficiently changed to admit of our carriage being thrown open, which afforded us a wide survey of the animated scene.

'How many changes,' he abruptly said, 'have come over this scene since, as the school-boy guest of an old family in Kensington, I bowled my hoop along this road!'

'Changes, indeed! uncle: but the mightiest change is in the living department of the scenery.'

'Ay; I doubt whether there be one in many of the hundreds now present who have numbered my years.'

many who care not one atom whether the object of the nation's faith be the Lord of Hosts, or the dead virgin, the impostor Mahomet, or the reptile Owen, or Satan himself, in whose existence they do not believe, still we are not arrived at such a pass as to embolden any number of them to stand up and stifle the cry of a whole people for their spiritual rights; or the demands of those who know the truth that it should be imparted to their reckless fellow-countrymen, the most deadly symptom of whose case is that they feel not the privation which destroys their souls.

My uncle had raised his voice to such a pitch, that I know not what the surrounding crowd might have thought had not their attention and ours been just then arrested by the approach of a gallant array. Heralded by a few life guards, and unmarked by the slightest display of regal, or indeed of any borrowed splendour, came an elegant travelling carriage: the windows were down; and side by side were seen the royal pair, with looks as radiant, as joyous, as far removed from the slightest semblance of pomp or pride as ever were those of rustic youth and village maiden.

'Now,' said he, as the carriage slowly made its way back through the park, 'now I am content. I have seen my Queen unattended, and oh, I hope uninfluenced by the serpent coils that have so long been wound about her; I have seen her as the bride of one who, if there be any truth in human faces, is a Saxon of the old stock, honest, manly, and unspoilt.

Since the day of the royal nuptials, England has had a deeper lesson presented to her reluctant study, touching the nature and extent of the Lord's controversy with her. She impiously thought that the surrender of her national Protest might be made, without endangering her civil liberties, or loosening the bonds of social order.

What sees she now impending over this vaulted home of freedom? A democratic tyranny, equally irresponsible with that of the most absolute autocracy, and far more dangerous.

She sees the individuals, who by that unfaithful act were admitted to her senate, aided and abetted by those who admitted them, invading the fireside sanctuary of her sons, immuring the officers of her law in a felon's prison-house, and affording practical illustration that the foot which could dare to spurn the Bible from the schools of her children will never scruple to set its heel on the boasted Magna Charta of her hitherto inviolable rights.

What is the proportion among these crowds of the poorer classes, for whom no accommodation is provided in parish churches, or in Episcopal chapels of ease? I cannot exactly say, with regard to those before us, my dear; but I know we have the authority of Her Majesty's Ecclesiastical Commissioners, for stating that if only one church were allowed to a population of 3000 individuals, we should require in London alone 279 churches in addition to all that we possess, even including every proprietary chapel now standing.

'One hundred and thirty-nine stewards rightly to divide the word of life among ten thousand starving souls! It is fearful to think on.'

profitable avocation; and none but persons in the lowest ranks of life devote their children to it; the resources which it affords in other countries to the younger members of respectable families not being thought of in this country.

The mercy of God the Father is displayed in his accepting the mediation of Jesus Christ, and pardoning us for his sake; the love of God the Son is displayed in that he so loved us that he laid down his life, the just for the unjust, that he might redeem us from death; and the grace of God the Holy Ghost is displayed, that since Jesus is no longer present in his human shape, he dwells in the hearts of men; he sanctifies them from pollution; he teaches them what is good; and puts into them good desires, shewing them the way from earth to heaven.

What father upon earth is there who does not consider the age and strength of his children, so as to require nothing more of them than they are able to do? What earthly father is there who, if his son shows a good will to obey him in all things, does not accept of the will for the deed, in those instances wherein he knows his son had not power and strength to do what he was bidden? What father is there who chastises as great faults, the childish mistakes and follies of his children, when, considering their ignorance and infirmity, it could not be reasonably expected that they should do better than they do?

How much soever these who are unwearied in their endeavours to enlarge the empire of human science may be entitled to our admiration, they have a much stronger claim to it who are constantly extending the kingdom of God within them; in other words, who are daily endeavouring to become better and holier and more Christian-like.

Though the disciples then present were the only persons that saw this blessed sight, yet we may partake of the benefits of it as well as they; for in that our blessed Lord then sent down his Spirit upon his disciples in so visible a manner, he therefore assures us that his Spirit shall never be wanting to such as are his true disciples; but if we be his true disciples indeed, we shall have the same Spirit come down on us as they had, and be endowed with as great power as they were, even to work miracles, though not upon others, yet upon ourselves.

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growth of it is furthered by the blood of martyrs. The carriage of the righteous in them makes the truth they profess more valued. It enhanceth the excellency of religion, and manifests it to be more amiable for its beauty than for its dowry; since they see it desirable by the sufferers, not only without worldly enjoyments, but with the sharpest miseries.

OUR DUTY TO GOD. Fear God for his power; trust him for his wisdom; love him for his goodness; praise him for his greatness; believe him for his faithfulness; and adore him for his holiness.

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By order of the Committee of Management. (Signed) H. J. GRASETT, Secretary & Treasurer.

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