

unless he used, as best he might, and almost alone, the very words of God Himself? He said no man had any right, in the presence of the human understanding and conscience and heart, and between Almighty God and man, to preach anything but the definite message written in that Book called the Holy Scriptures and known as the Word of God. If Christ said, "Go, disciple all nations," he added "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;" and if the preacher went to the people with one hand to guide them, it was because he held the Bible in the other hand. Therefore the printed Bible must go with him to prevent him from lording it over God's heritage, and tyrannizing over the human understanding and conscience and heart. Then, should he alone interpret it, or the Church behind him, or some Council 1,000 or 2,000 years old behind the Church? What would the people know about the teaching of the Church or of the Council? They simply knew how the parish priest understood the teaching of the Church and the Council, and unless he was a pretty good Latin scholar he could not understand much of the teaching of either. There might be some belonging to the Romish Church present, but it had never been his way to abuse the Roman Catholics. The law of love was the best way to convert Roman Catholics. The only way was to draw men into the arms held out in love and invitation. There was no exception to this. Where was that which was to take the place of the miracle in our time? They had the message in the Scriptures. They had got so far. Where was the token, where was the sign, where was the seal? If they were going to preach the Gospel to all the races, the preacher must take the Bible in his hand and give it to them, and tell them to read while he preached, that they might keep him within the bounds of his commission and get as near the original fountain of truth as he must in the end. But where was the evidence of the mighty power of God with the messenger and the message? The days of miracles were gone. What took their place? There could be nothing but a manifest operation of God, that must be discovered, that could not be mistaken for any other operation than Divine. Where and what was it? Let them suppose that they were all Buddhists in India, and he was discoursing to them about Hindu philosophy and theology, and some man came in at a side door and said, "Stop, sir; I wish to speak to your people." "What about?" "I have come here from God." "From God? Who are you? When did you see God? When did God authorize you to come here? What are you coming for?" "I want you to give up everything you have ever believed, to relinquish everything you have ever hoped, to forsake every source of spiritual and intellectual life at which you have ever drawn inspiration and power, and believe what I say to you—on pain of eternal damnation, too." He would say, "Who are you? What are you?" The stranger would reply, "I have a book." "If you please go home and let me examine it." When he came back he would ask him, "How do you prove it is the Book of God? I have been reading it. There are a great many good things in it, and a great many that I do not understand; but how do you prove that it comes from God?" They were brought face to face with one of the most serious elements of human responsibility, as man was held accountable to God under the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Christ sent forth His disciples, after the age of miracles was passed, with nothing but the Gospel, to preach it with authority that they recognised, but the people might not, with the power of the Holy Ghost behind them, impalpable though effective through the truth when the truth was once known; God, who for ages had been planning the work of redemption that He might fulfil that love which desired not the death of a sinner, but that all might turn to Him and live; Christ, who had come into the world in our nature, for ever brother with us, who had taught