

Our Faith.

BY T. H. PHELPS.

(Continued.)

We beg it to be distinctly understood that we regard our Lord Jesus Christ as in his entire nature a perfect true and real man, as begotten of God, as created of God as we are. But ! says an objector, the gospels of Matthew and Luke, in their opening chapters teach that He was begotten by the holy spirit. Do you believe in that portion of the word ? Our answer is, no we do not. We do not disbelieve it because of the consequences that would follow if it were true, but because they tell a different story, and set before us a different Christ, to the one predicted in the O. T. Besides it would make (if true) Christ not a man, but a new order of being, known to the fables of Paganism, but not to genuine Christianity. We do not however disbelieve the narrative in the opening chapter of the first and third gospels, on account of their fated consequences, but because the narratives themselves bear it written upon their faces, that they are not history but legend. Scarcely any one, I should think, on reading them over once carefully, (unless they have a theory to uphold) could fail to see their absolutely legendary character. Remember we do not speak of rejecting the star, the visit of the Wise Men, the flight into Egypt, the song of the angels, as poetical and beautiful myths. This we think they are. But we are

called upon to receive them as actual reliable history of actual and literal fact. Remember too, we are not denying the reality of a holy child born of a holy mother, But of a supposed miraculous conception of a supposed comingling of Deity with one of his creatures, and this we say partakes of the character of the myths of Paganism, and has no shadow of likeness to the simplicity of the genuine gospels. It is clearly in spirit and in incident a fragment of some of the Apocryphal gospels which it greatly resembles in character, and was subsequently added to the accredited writing of Matthew and Luke. The apostles and early disciples knew nothing about it. It is never alluded to again. It stands by itself unconnected and alone in the N. T., and yet is it not a fact, the whole of Orthodox christendom not only receive it as a narrative divinely true, but actually have their whole theology based upon it ? And is it right and honorable in us, is it just to Jesus Christ, is it reverential to the God who annointed Him, and who raised him from the Dead ?

Is it being faithful to truth to stand quietly by and see this mythology crushing out the Jesus of the Gospels and substituting Paganism in its place, thus making the divine religion of Jehovah ridiculous in the eyes of intellectual men. How did his own family regard Him, ? and the people too, and His Apostles among them, how do they treat Him to the very last. Sometimes they are offended with Him.

Sometimes they call him an emissary of Beelzebub. The inhabitants of His