

the head of the human race, Adam, before he sinned." "During the Millennial Age Israel will be the chief nation of earth, at the head of all on the earthly plane of being." The "little flock" of Russellites will have disappeared from view having entered into the invisible life of spiritual beings of the highest order like Christ Himself. On the earth during this period, though mostly all will be gradually restored to perfection, "some, however, will be destroyed from among the people: First, all who under full light and opportunity, for one hundred years refuse to make progress toward righteousness and perfection, and second, those who, having progressed to perfection, in a final testing at the close of the Millennium prove unfaithful. Such die the second death from which there is no resurrection or restitution promised." (Vol. I:241). Naturally such a text as Rev. 20:5 which states that the "rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished," proves a tremendous obstacle in the way of this fantastic theory, but the "Pastor" disposes of all objections by pronouncing the text spurious. Though many good and scholarly men in all ages have held to the pre-millennial theory of Christ's coming and reign, yet there has not been one of them who would not repudiate with indignation the ridiculous details with which this system obscures and degrades the simple doctrine of a personal reign of the Christ upon earth. It is particularly the theory of a second chance for salvation that appeals to the crude intellects and illogical thought of so many to-day.

Closely akin to all this are his statements that the Second Advent of Christ took place in 1874; that the righteous dead were resurrected in 1878, and are now on the earth; that at this date also the nominal Church systems were "spewed out" no longer to be recognized of God; that the Gospel call to the world ceased entirely in 1881; and that in October, 1914, all governments and institutions of Christendom would be overthrown to make way for the Millennial reign. When the last-mentioned date came close, he began to hedge and insist that he never exactly fixed the time, but all through his books that date was settled in the most precise and positive terms, which no later denials can remove.

And now that we have passed this momentous crisis without one of the tragic happenings so positively promised, this marvellous prophet has apparently satisfied his devoted following that the whole thing has actually transpired as he foretold, although in some mysterious and invisible fashion which none save "the little flock" can recognize. One cannot but wonder why "the little flock" has not already been translated to make room for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, according to the original scheme, are now due in the field.

Another popular feature of Russell's theories is that which he uses to discredit and malign all Christian churches—his denial of hell.