

The Christian Helper.

A BAPTIST MONTHLY JOURNAL.

* * * * * For that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy?—II. Cor. 1. 4.

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OUR POSITION.

That some misapprehension exists with reference to the purpose for which the CHRISTIAN HELPER has been originated will appear from the following, contained in a letter from one of our most esteemed friends, a very prominent brother in the Ministry:—

"I like the first number of the C. H. very much. Shall I tell you my dear good brother just exactly my feelings and fears about it? Will you be offended? I think not, for I write you as a brother whom I have learned to esteem and love. My fear is that if the C. H. should become a weekly, there is not in these two provinces constituency enough in our denomination for two Baptist papers. I fear it might lead to much heart-burning and bickering. Could you not buy out the *Canadian Baptist*? At least try. I have not the remotest personal feeling in the matter, I have no more to do with the *Canadian Baptist* than you have. I am simply looking at the matter from a broad denominational view-point. Perhaps, however, you do not purpose making it a weekly, and if not, the danger of the difficulty to which I refer will be comparatively nothing. I have no doubt the Lord will guide you to what is best; and you have my kindest wishes."

To these kind and faithful words, from a warm Christian heart, we reply:—

1st. There is *no purpose whatever* of making the CHRISTIAN HELPER a weekly paper. In doing so the editor would have to give up the practice of a noble profession quite as lucrative as that of conducting a weekly newspaper; and that other promoters of the paper would not favour a change from the original plan.

2nd. We fully recognise the impropriety of our having in these provinces of Ontario and Quebec, two weekly denominational newspapers; and quite agree with our brother that if the present management of the *Baptist* gives dissatisfaction, an effort should be made to buy it out, rather than to starve it out.

3rd. We have no fault to find with the *Baptist* as the weekly newspaper of the denomination:—we cheerfully bear testimony to its excellency in this respect. Indeed it is continually improving, and especially so since the prospectus of the

CHRISTIAN HELPER came out. The HELPER is really helping the *Baptist*. We take the *Baptist*, and pay for it; we read and enjoy it; we preserve it carefully on file; and we don't say bad things about it. We have not the slightest objection to every Baptist in Canada doing likewise; and we hope the editor and proprietor of the *Baptist* has no different feeling towards us.

From the above plain words we trust that our attitude towards the *Canadian Baptist* will not be any longer understood or misrepresented. We wouldn't hurt a hair of the editor's head.

Our appearance as a Monthly Journal devoted to the special aid of Christian workers, and aiming at the cultivation of a high order of Christian literature of permanent value to the denomination, and which can be conveniently preserved in the form in which we present it, may perhaps interfere somewhat by-and-by with the circulation of some of the numerous Monthlies from the other side of the line, which are patronized largely by our Sunday School workers and others; but that there is any real ground for fear of our supplanting the *Canadian Baptist*, we cannot understand, especially when the denominational constituency includes 25,000 Church members.

FORWARD.

"Speak unto the Children of Israel that they go forward" said the Lord to Moses, as panic stricken and dismayed they paused upon the shores of the Red Sea.

In front of them to all appearance was a watery grave, behind them was the mighty host of Pharaoh which was to lead them back again into captivity.

It was a trying time, and we wonder not that with their lack of faith, they felt that all was lost; that their dream of liberty had ended, and in its place had come a rebellious feeling against God and the instrument He had appointed to free them from Egyptian bondage. But "man's extremity is God's opportunity." The waters divide and form a wall on either side of the advancing host, who at the Almighty's command of "Forward," pass through upon dry ground.

This striking incident in the journey of the children of Israel to the promised

land, is a true picture of the Christian's experience in his journey towards the heavenly Canaan. Confronted by trial and adversity, he seems almost overwhelmed and about to fall into the sin of murmuring against his heavenly Father; but as the divine voice rings in his ear, and thrills through his soul the word "Forward," he receives fresh courage and a higher inspiration which not only enable him to endure his afflictions, but to come off more than conqueror.

Is he surrounded by worldly foes who are anxious to blast his reputation and destroy his happiness, ere his courage is all gone, he hears the voice of his Deliverer "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord," and then as His mighty power is exercised on his behalf, he receives the command "Forward," and marches on to victory.

Is the Church of God in danger from the wiles of Satan or the devices of sceptical men, still the command rings out "Forward," and at that divine summons and under the leadership of the Lord of hosts, the army of the Living God marches forward to its glorious conquests of peace.

Brethren, the present is an age of scepticism and unbelief, and whether it manifest itself in the bigotry of the ignorant, or the philippics of the would-be *savant*, the ends sought are the same. At times it seems as if God had withdrawn His presence from His people, and that they must fall into the hands of Satan and his emissaries; but just as they seem about to be overwhelmed, they are roused to fresh enthusiasm by the divine command of "Forward," and under its inspiration they become mighty in casting down the strongholds of sin.

"Forward," ought ever to be the Christian's motto, not only because it is God's command, but because it is the very essence of His religion, which if it were not aggressive would soon cease to be anything at all.

"Speak to the people that they go forward;" the command rings out as distinct to us to-day, as it did to the children of Israel thousands of years ago. If we have put on the armour of God it behoves us to keep pressing steadily forward to the front. Having once enlisted in the army of the Living God, we should never