

Teacher Training.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES.

TEXT-BOOK : REDFORD'S "PRIMER OF CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES."
ANALYSIS, NOTES AND ADDITIONS, by Rev. Professor Ross, B. D., Presbyterian College,
Montreal, Quebec.

THE EVIDENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN MAN.

That Christianity is true appears from the effects which it produces on the heart and life of the man who believes it and lives it.

I. CHRISTIANITY MAKES A GREAT CHANGE IN A MAN'S CHARACTER AND LIFE :

In contrast with other men and with his own previous life the following advantages of a true Christian may be noted :

1. *He is delivered from the power of sin.* Drunkards and other slaves of vice have often tried in vain to reform themselves, but the submission of the heart and life to Christ immediately set them free. 2. *He has obtained a higher ideal of life.* It is not the standard of worldly honor or conventional morality, but the life of the perfect man Jesus Christ. As the Christian grows his ideal grows before him. 3. *He has a more sensitive conscience:* (1) To the evil of sin. He shrinks now not only from the act, but from the very thought of evil. (2) To moral obligation. All his duties are a loving response to a personal benefactor. 4. *He has a fuller and richer joy.* (1) His sense of guilt and consequent fear of punishment have been removed by the atonement. (2) He has constant fellowship with the purest, wisest and most loving of beings. (3) His earthly trials are an apprenticeship for higher service and happiness. "His worst sufferings here are only growing pains." (4) Death is his final deliverance from all evil and his introduction to inconceivable blessedness. 5. *He is much better able to serve others.* (1) His Christ-like spirit is itself a blessing to those around him. (2) Christ has given him a much higher idea of the value and possibilities of every man. (3) All his mental and material possessions are held as a stewardship to be administered for Christ in the service of man. (4) His own experience enables him to be helpful to all earnest seekers after truth.

II. THE NATURE OF THIS CHANGE SHOWS THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY TRUTH:

1. It is in opposition to the inclinations and tendencies of his own nature. These made him what he was before his conversion. 2. It is opposed to all the influences which surround him. These shape the world whose spirit is very different from his. 3. Its tendency is upward while the tendency of every falsehood is downward. Truth manifests itself in holiness, self-sacrifice and inward peace; falsehood, in wickedness, degradation and remorse. 4. It has been wrought on men in all ages, nations and circumstances. (1) In ancient times such men as Paul and Augustine had the current of their lives changed by Christian truth, and they mightily changed the thought of their time because they believed on Jesus. (2) In modern days a host of such men as Bunyan, Newton, Finney, and Jerry McAulay have been delivered from iniquity, and made illustrious helpers to others. (3) Among the lowest and vilest of the heathen, Christian truth hath won many such trophies as Africaner, a monster of every kind of wickedness, who became a saint under the preaching of Moffat. 4. When it is fairly understood a Christian character is looked on by the men of every country in the world as the highest moral ideal.