

# The Protestant

AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—1 THESS. v. 21.

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## The Protestant,

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Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. (To pre-  
vent disappointment, all advertisements should be sent to  
the Office before 3 o'clock on Friday.)

### THE SYMPATHY OF JESUS.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be  
touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all  
points tempted like us, yet without sin."—Heb.  
iv. 15.

As oft, with worn and weary feet,  
We good earth's rugged valley o'er,  
The thought, how comforting and sweet—  
Christ trod this weary path before;  
Our wants and weaknesses he knows,  
From life's first dawning to its close.  
Do sickness, toilfulness, or pain,  
Or sorrow in our path appear,  
The recollection will remain,  
How deeply did he suffer here  
His life, how truly and how brief—  
Filled up with suffering and grief!  
If Satan tempt our hearts to stray,  
And whisper evil things within,  
No did he, in the desert way,  
Assail our Lord with thoughts of sin?  
When worn, and in a feeble hour,  
The tempter came with all his power,  
Just such as this, our earth he trod,  
With every human ill but sin;  
And though indeed the very God,  
As I am now so he has been.  
My God, my Saviour, look on me,  
With pity, love and sympathy.  
—Wilberforce.

### The Rev. John Angell James, of Bir- mingham.

(Continued from our last.)  
He developed the liberality, missionary zeal, and  
general usefulness of his congregation, in every way  
where there was an opening for Christian effort. His  
own statement supplies the result of this:—When I  
became pastor of my church, more than fifty-three  
years ago, the only object of congregational benevolence  
and action was the Sunday-school, which was then  
conducted in a private house, hired for the purpose.  
There was nothing else; literally nothing we set our  
hands to. We had not then taken up even the Mis-  
sionary Society. We have now an organization for the  
London Missionary Society, which raises as its regular  
contribution, nearly £500 per annum, besides occa-  
sional donations to meet special appeals, which, upon  
an average, may amount to another £100 a year. For  
the Colonial Missionary Society, we raise annually  
£70. For our Sunday and day schools, which com-  
prehend nearly 2000 children, we raise £200. Our ladies  
conduct a working Society for Orphan Mission Schools  
in the East Indies, the proceeds of which, for the pur-  
chase of tracts, our Village Preachers' Society, which  
raises for the poor of our town; a Maternal Society,  
of many branches, in various localities; and a Female  
Benevolent Society for Visiting the Sick Poor. We  
have a Religious Tract Society, which employs ninety  
distributors, and spends £50 nearly a year in the pur-  
chase of tracts. Our Village Preachers' Society,  
which employs twelve or fourteen lay-agents, costs us  
scarcely anything. We have £200 annually for the  
County Association. We have a Young Men's Brother-  
hood Society, for general and religious improvement, with  
a library of 3000 volumes. We have also night-  
schools for young men and women, at small cost, and  
Bible-classes for other young men and women. In  
addition to all this, we raise £100 per annum for  
Spring Hill College. We have laid out £23,000 in  
improving the old chapel and building the new one;  
in the erection of a new school, the college, and in  
building seven country and town small chapels. We  
have also formed two separate Independent churches,  
and have, jointly with another congregation, formed a  
third, and all but set up a fourth; and are at this  
time in treaty for two pieces of freehold land, which  
will cost £700, to build two more chapels in the  
suburbs of the town.  
During that period of fifty-three years, how many  
souls have been brought to God! The great day will  
declare the result of an earnest ministry, carried  
on successfully during half a century. For many  
years there have been upwards of a thousand members  
in this one church.  
Mr. James early devoted himself to authorship, and  
all his works are full of evangelical truth, pressed  
home to the conscience with fervour and point.  
They are his ministry applied to the press, and by  
which he, "being dead yet speaketh." "The Anxi-  
ous Inquirer" alone will carry his name to latest  
posterity. It was published in 1824, and has already  
had a circulation of upwards of half a million copies  
in the English language, and it has been translated  
into Welsh, German, Italian, and French. Very many  
souls have found the way to Christ by its blessed pages.  
His "Pastoral Address," originally intended for his  
congregation, have been circulated to the extent of a  
million copies. His "Young Man from Home," a  
most admirable book to put into the hand of a youth  
as he leaves for business, has already reached 68,000  
persons, each of whom may have given several others  
a pearl. For young women, too, he prepared an ad-  
mirable "Guide; and Parents, Teachers, Church Mem-  
bers, and Ministers, have each received his counsels in  
a book. He has comforted the Widow by a reasonable  
"Faith, Hope, and Charity," in separate volumes.  
Sermons and tracts have frequently issued from his  
pen, and he has translated a large portion of the  
Church in this land and in America. Collected vol-  
umes of these are being issued since his decease.  
For six years before his death, Mr. James had a  
colleague in his ministry, with whom he continued to

labour both in counsel and in preaching, with great  
happiness and power. In 1855, he reached his jubilee,  
when he received the congratulations of his congregation  
and the Christian people of the country. All  
denominations had an interest in him. He was one of  
the early friends of the Evangelical Alliance, and  
breathed much of its spirit. Hence he was beloved by  
all. In 1856, he felt his strength failing, and he  
bade farewell to most of the associations with which  
he had been connected. In the autumn of the year  
he was poorly; but rallied so much, that on the Sab-  
bath morning before his death he preached at Edgworth  
chapel, and in the evening worshipped at Carr's  
lane. He had prepared a sermon for his people for  
the succeeding Sunday. On the Friday evening, how-  
ever, after correcting for the press his review of the  
life and labours of the Rev. Richard Knill, he felt  
indisposed, and was aided to bed by his medical ad-  
viser, Dr. Evans. His night was restless, by reason of  
his coughing; but his sleepless hours were happy by  
his holy meditation and repetition of favourite passages  
of Scripture and of hymns. As the morning of the  
day dawned, his spirit fled, and he was ushered into  
the immediate presence of the Saviour, whom he  
loved so much and served so long. When the tidings  
spread, Birmingham was in tears, and the whole  
Christian community mourned. All nations who  
paid him honour as they bore him to the grave, under  
the pulpit he has occupied for so many years; and in  
one of the parish churches, the Rev. Dr. Miller  
preached his funeral sermon. In this discourse there  
is the remark: "John Angell James belonged, not to  
Carr's Lane, nor to Birmingham, but to the Church of  
Christ."  
John Angell James is a bright example to the  
Christian ministry, and no less so to the Christian  
people. His piety, so decided, so devotional, so hal-  
lowing, so progressive, commends him as an illustration  
of the beauty of holiness, and the blessedness of  
entire consecration to the Lord Jesus. Let the reader  
earnestly cultivate the same attainments in sanctifica-  
tion. "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord."  
His impartiality was great. "He was never known to  
enter the pulpit one minute too late, or to commence  
divine service one moment before the appointed time."  
All other duties were done orderly, and hence much  
was crowded into each week. He worked regularly  
and he worked long. His industry was constant, and  
it was productive. Besides his regular duties in his  
pulpit and pastorate, he preached many public sermons,  
and travelled much in the cause of God. He sat in  
councils of his brethren, and sent to the press as many  
as twenty volumes. His liberality was large. Blessed  
somewhat early with considerable property, he used  
his wealth for the glory of God. Even his good cir-  
cumstances and carriage contributed not a little to  
assist men of business, in a town where so many  
covet and eagerly pursue success. Once brought under  
his earnest ministry, not a few became the recipients  
of grace, and liberal supporters of the cause of God.  
On many occasions Mr. James gave very largely of  
his substance. When £500 were presented to him, he  
added £500 more, and gave the whole to a benevolent  
fund for aged and infirm ministers. His missionary  
spirit grew more intense as he advanced in grace and  
years. And one of his last appeals and benefactions  
was for China.  
His zeal for saving souls pervaded all his works,  
and his usefulness was extensive. "In some humble  
degree," he wrote to the Rev. C. M. Birrell, of Liver-  
pool, with the last effort of his pen, "I have aimed at  
usefulness, both in my preaching and writing, and I  
trust to an amount which utterly astonishes and almost  
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