

beyond the bounds of their locality and amassed large fortunes at the expense of their dupes, in spite of the glaring absurdities and the unscriptural character of their teaching, and, in some cases, the gross inconsistency of their private life.

It is with the last-named of these religious fads, called by its founder "Millennial Dawn," but more popularly known as "Russellism," that the present article would deal.

The methods used to promulgate this latest brand of religious thought are so subtle that one wonders in how many Canadian homes it has gained a strong foothold before the family realized just what it was and where it originated. Long since all distinctive features have been erased from the various publications that set forth its peculiar doctrines. The name "Millennial Dawn" has been dropped and the title "Studies in the Scripture" substituted on the six volumes that constitute the standards of Russellism, and which purport to be issued by the "Bible and Tract Society," London and Brooklyn. In selling these books the agents are careful to make no mention of their authorship or peculiarities; they are simply "books on Bible study, published by the Bible and Tract Society," and "entirely undenominational." So with the other publications, which are scattered at large all over the country, in public places, private homes, and even the street cars, bearing such innocent titles as "Bible Students' Monthly," "People's Pulpit," "The Watch Tower," &c. Even the organization which carries on this extensive and determined propaganda hides its peculiarly-colored light under the misleading title of "International Bible Students' Association," though it is entirely composed of the devotees of Millennial Dawnism, who have given both intellect and conscience into the safe keeping of the astute "Pastor," Charles T. Russell.

Anyone possessed of even a fair knowledge of the English Bible, who has had the courage and patience to wade through the almost 3,000 pages of Russell's "Studies in the Scripture," must be equally astounded at the audacity with which Scripture is distorted to suit his peculiar views, and the amazing blindness of those who in these days of the open Bible fail to see through a system that really contradicts or perverts every fundamental of the Christian faith. In fact, the student of Church history cannot fail to recognize in Russellism the features of every old heresy that has led men astray since Marcion first carved the Scriptures to suit himself and the Gnostics taught a dual Christ.

Degrading the Bible.

While professing to honor supremely the Bible, Russell really degrades it to a secondary place compared with his own books. He not only "obtains his sense of scripture by means of key-words chosen and capriciously explained by himself; by a continual paraphrasing of