

vision to save us or keep us from great sins, but He has made no provision to keep us from little ones. Can any sane person believe in such a creed as the above? Let candid, unprejudiced persons answer.

Now, where is the new teaching, or *heresy*, of the *Association*? Where are we? We certainly believe in Divine guidance through the Holy Spirit, here and now. Do not all Christians believe as much (theoretically, at least)?

We believe in such guidance that we may know we do right or please God. Do not all believe this? If the minister does not know he is doing right in entering the ministry, being called of the Holy Ghost, what does he know? If no man, after committing the matter to God in all confidence, can know he pleases God in launching a great enterprise involving the loss or gain of millions of dollars, what is the good of calling upon God in time of trouble and uncertainty? May we not as well call upon Jupiter or Baal?

And further, we believe we may have such guidance that we know we please God in all things small and great.

So do all Christians.

"O dear, no we don't," is the cry from a thousand throats.

That is just where all you people are both heretical and heterodox. We agree with you that guidance in *some things* is good; that our human wisdom fails us at some particular crisis of our lives; that a theory of Divine guidance is a nice thing to embellish a creed, and, on the whole, is safest when *least* practised, but this vulgar doctrine of continual and sure guidance in the details of life we can not abide. Do not tell us we believe in any such thing. But what do you believe then? That while you are saved from great sins, you *must* commit small ones? No, not at all. We believe an enlightened conscience, common sense, and judgment are sufficient guides in common duties and minor details of life. Very well. Then you must hold that your common sense guides you aright, so that you please God in thought, word and deed. Can you give such a testimony by the month or by the year? Can anybody

give it who takes common sense for a guide in small things and the Holy Spirit in great things? Certainly not. "But common sense is sufficient in some cases." We are not arguing that point. We simply insist that the Holy Spirit must superintend the whole life, and see to it, that *we know in some way* that we please God all the time, or otherwise we must sin even if we accept all the help the great God offers us, and use all the means in our power. Here are the two horns of the dilemma, and thinking persons must lay hold on one or the other. The latter one is very rough and sharp, and it seems a pity that so many should grasp it so firmly, for it will surely lacerate and gore them instead of giving them strength and support.

We think we have shown, then, that so far from teaching anything new or strange we simply put into practice what all men profess to believe (unless they would believe an utter absurdity), and that this simple acting out our faith is the "head and front of our offending."

A. TRUAX.

THE WORD OF GOD.

What is the Word? The popular idea is that it is the Bible. Some also affirm that it is Christ, and back up their statement by, "and the Word became flesh;" John i. 14. The former is a mere myth, while the latter is a dead literalism. How can the God-man be the Word? What did John mean when he wrote that "the Word was God," and "was made flesh?" Must we be bound by a slavish literal interpretation of these passages, or by comparing spiritual things with spiritual, arrive at a true meaning of what the "Word of God" is? In the first chapter of Genesis, the following expressions occur: God "said," let there be light; God "said," let there be a firmament; God "said," let the dry land appear; God "said," let the earth bring forth grass; God "said," let there be lights in the firmament; God "said," let the waters bring forth abundantly; God "said," let the earth bring forth living creatures; God "said," let us make man in our image; God "said," be fruitful; God "said," behold, I have given you every