

al world still went on. And just in proportion as the spiritual in religion declined there was a return to the degrading elements of a material and sensuous worship—until, at last, the materials for building the temple of antichrist became so abundant that only a master mind was needed to pile them up in their natural connection. Such a one was not wanting. "The wicked one was revealed," and with the materials at hand, he soon gave shape to the edifice.—Working with "all power, and signs, and lying wonders"—and "with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish," he built a temple which will only be cast down, when the Lord shall "consume him with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy him with the brightness of his coming."

But, brethren, while we think of these things, let us not forget that the professed friends of Christ prepared the materials for this building. The apostle does not apply the name of antichrist to heathens or to philosophic infidels. Whatever influence they exerted was indirect. It was the professed friends of Christ—some of them even trying to conciliate enemies; and such at least as for a time bore the christian name who did the mischief. "*They went out from us.*"

II. THE ANTICHRISTS THAT ARE STILL IN THE WORLD.

We come now to the second head of our discourse, viz., a description of the antichrists that are still in the world.

The reformation of the 16th century produced a mighty change in the world. The scriptures were translated and read. The pure gospel was preached in many lands. The bible was once more held up as the only standard of faith, and the only rule of obedience; and God blessed the truth to the salvation of many. Many of the errors and corruptions which had accumulated and darkened the world, were driven away like smoke before the wind. The name of Jesus again came to be with many the "name above every name." The right hand of the Lord wrought marvellously—and even yet the truth which was then uncovered continues to shine and gladden the hearts of the people of God. But, to a cer-

tain extent, the history of the church has been reproduced. "While men slept the enemy came and sowed tares." The carnal heart no more loved the name of Jesus, after the reformation, than before. Infidels of various shades soon commenced their attacks upon christianity, and the Saviour that it holds so dear. The errors broached however were not materially different from those of an earlier period—nor really different from those which are poured forth so plentifully in our day. But time does not permit me to point out their resemblance in different periods. My aim, at present, is not so much to exhibit the different phases of infidelity as to discover the antichrists which are still in the world.

Many have learned to laugh at the pretensions of antichrist as made known to us by the pointed descriptions in the bible.—But yet it is true, as John wrote, "There are many antichrists." Nay more—they are in the church, or so connected with it as to identify them with the same class in the days of the apostles. There is indeed one important difference—but all to the disadvantage of the church of the present day. It cannot now be said "They went out from us." The church of Christ so called is either more tolerant of heresy now than in the days of the apostles, or her frown is less dreaded, or the discipline of Christ's house is so impotent that many of His most formidable foes retain high places in the sanctuary. The writings of Colenso, or the "Essays and Reviews," sufficiently justify this statement. These and others put forth by persons holding high positions in the church, aim at no less than to overthrow the authority of the scriptures as the only and all sufficient foundation of the believer's hope—thereby depriving man of an infallible guide, whether in the worship and service of God, or the discharge of the duties which devolve upon him in the several relations of society.

While the building of the spiritual temple of Jehovah is going forward, there are three ways in which enemies may do harm. First, by leaving out some of the materials, under the plea that their use will neither add to the strength nor to the symme-