

fitted to degrade our ideas of His moral government than thus making Him chiefly solicitous about forms, rather than moral realities? What more adapted to destroy all sense of moral guilt, and lessen or prevent all effort after vital godliness? Bunsen's remark (*Hippolytus and His Age*, vol. III. p. 198) of the early church holds good to-day; "When the church," he declares, "attached rights and promises of blessing to anything except the conscious abandonment of sin, and to the voluntary vow of dedicating life and soul to the Lord . . . the consciousness of sin, and the longing for real truthful reformation died away in the same proportion." What, most of all, is a more certain barrier to the soul's salvation than this reliance upon the sacraments? When we think that the myriads of the Roman, the Greek, the Lutheran, and the Anglican, churches for the most part, and many of other Protestant bodies, are clinging to their baptism and their consequent church membership instead of to direct and personal trust in Christ as their chief ground of hope, is it not enough to rend with grief all thoughtful Christian hearts, and lead Baptists to lift up their voices and not spare that practice which is the great buttress of such a dishonouring and destructive belief.

Once more : who can say but that the union of church and state is an evil? To bring that body which should know no law-giver but Christ into subjection to the legislation of what Christ called the world in contrast with the church,—to make the "body of Christ" bow its neck to a ruling power which is not subject to Him,—to bring the church down from her lofty height of moral and spiritual superiority to be yoked in with all political partyism, chicanery and corruption,—to make her a pensioner upon a power which bestows aid to secure selfish and temporal ends,—to thus bring into the church of God the ambition, the scheming, and the mercenary spirit of politics—all this is a degradation of which apostolic Christianity never dreamed. Time would fail us to speak of the evils of in-