

kingdom would accurately describe this completed conquest of the whole world.

Any one, who brushes aside the cobwebs of heated imagination and platform addresses, and really studies the two pictures, will find the points of resemblance few and far between. With the higher critics they will exclaim, "there is no similarity and conformity between prophecy and issue."

But let the comparison be made between prophecy and the spiritual kingdom of heaven, as illustrated in the life of Christ before Pentecost, and all who walked in the Spirit thereafter, and then the only discrepancy discoverable is that prophecy, through poverty of language, failed to measure up in its sublime descriptions to the sublimer issue.

But, alas for higher and lower criticism, and their enthusiastic advocates, the power to discover these identities must ever be confined to the *possessors* of this kingdom.

THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE.

The churches of the future will be founded on the idea of righteousness. "Other foundations can no man lay." Any narrower church is unworthy of humanity and of God, and will, in the natural course of events, be swept away. The gods of ecclesiasticism have very often been devils. But the true God is a perfectly good Being, and His Church must therefore be coextensive with the race. In righteousness, and in righteousness alone, we have an idea that will unite all men by a common bond. In righteousness, and in righteousness, alone, we have an idea capable of indefinite expansion, of unceasing application to the ever-changing, ever-growing necessities of human life. A Church founded on the idea of righteousness is a Church which all wise men must approve, which all good men must love, for righteousness is absolutely necessary for the well-being of mankind. A Church founded on the idea of righteousness is part of that eternal and universal Church which existed long before the Christian era, which will continue to exist when every ecclesiastical institution in Christendom has collapsed. Ecclesiasticism must be destroyed before religion can begin. The Churches of men must be revolutionized in order that the

Church of God may be saved—*Rev. Dr. Alfred Momerie, in the Forum*

REMARKS.

There is struggling through this article the correct, innate idea that the kingdom of heaven is righteousness, peace and joy, but it is not yet, by the writer, discovered or apprehended that it is in the Holy Ghost. He evidently still clings to the thought that it must be found in the visible Church.

Here is the great fallacy which runs through the great bulk of all Christian writings. Hence the call to destroy something in order to build something else on its ruins. But surely righteousness needs not the destruction of anything else than unrighteousness, and even this is not destroyed in order to make way for righteousness, for when righteousness appears unrighteousness changes or has changed to righteousness.

Why should visible Churches, or sects, if you please, be destroyed to make way for righteousness, any more than secular governments? Are they not really governments, within governments, just as home governments are? Certainly, if righteousness everywhere prevailed, ecclesiasticism in its bad sense would be destroyed, but only in the sense that home tyranny would cease.

For some time after Pentecost there was no visible Church. But, when the multitude chose some of their number to administer their charities properly, then first a visible organization began. And there was no necessary clash at that time between ecclesiasticism and righteousness. But in the course of time the two began to be looked upon as a kind of Siamese twins, that is, unable to exist the one without the other, and this false notion generally prevails even at the present time. But true righteousness, that is, righteousness in the Holy Ghost, cuts the connecting link and proves that this surgical operation, in place of being deadly, is good for both. And, so it is proved, that righteousness in the Holy Ghost is utterly independent in every direction, and ecclesiasticism is merely an incident in its history, just as home or civil government is or may be.