

reverently and waited ; and when he finished he looked up calmly, and said :

“ I am ready.”

Skillful, tender fingers did their work, and after a time the eyes of the old man slowly unclosed again. As he took in the familiar surroundings, a look almost of disappointment crossed his face, and then he said, softly : “ As Thou wilt, Lord.”

—J. O. D.—The Manna.

THE TIME IN WHICH WE ARE LIVING.

What characterizes the days in which we live? Do the men of this day show the following characteristics? are they—Lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God ; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof.

Do these terms describe the men of the present time ?

Linked up with these clear statements of the Word of God, and foretelling what should come in the future we find these words : “ For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine ; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts (desires ;) and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.” (myths.)

I ask again, do you see anything

like this at the present time ? What do we see in the churches of protestant Christendom to-day ? Are they marked by spirituality, by deep earnestness, by gracious revivals? Alas, no, the one thing which stands out as marking off this time from others in the history of the church is the denial of the Word of God. Up to the present time the protestant churches have clung in theory, at least, to the inerrancy and the inspiration of the Bible. But now this is all being changed: Now it is being proclaimed that there is error in the Bible, that many of its statements are proved by science and history to be untrue, that there are in it mistakes and contradictions. Probably one half of the ministers either openly reject the early chapters of Genesis as being simply myths, or they do not dare to affirm that they are the words of God and literally true in every particular. And if this be so to-day, what of the future? How many of the students of divinity and theology believe in the Bible as the Word of God.

General Booth says that a professor of theology states that “of six professors of theology at our university, I am the only one who believes in the divinity of Christ,” and another said, “Half our divinity students are skeptical, which is about the same proportion as prevails among the professors who instruct them in theology.” In plain words, the schools of theology are turning out infidels to be the ministers of the future ! And they will suit those poor souls who have itching ears, who are turning away their ears