

to his apostles, he says, "Ye are the light of the world;" intimating very clearly that "light," (or understanding in reference to spiritual or eternal affairs), is the one great essential need; nevertheless, "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." However, the little "light" that was forced upon the world, by the persistent efforts of Jesus Christ and his apostles (despite the utmost resistance of mankind generally) has resulted in the Christendom of the present day, instead of the heathendom of the ancient Roman Empire. Moreover, although "darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people," in regard to all spiritual and eternal affairs; (as was so plainly foretold concerning this time); yet the actual existence of Christendom renders it possible for "the light" to again appear, so as to prevail on a far grander scale, and much more effectually than ever hitherto.

The "falling away," or apostacy predicted by the Apostle Paul evidently occurred immediately after the apostle's days; and in proportion as Christianity became perverted and corrupted, so as to be less and less repugnant to heathenism, precisely in the same proportion did it very naturally spread itself abroad and prevail, until within three centuries it became the established religion of the Roman Empire, as is well known. It may be said, however, that some degree of "Reformation" has been effected during the last few centuries; which may be true enough; nevertheless, modern sectarianism is but the adaptation of Christianity to the imperfection and ignorance still prevailing among the people of the various sects in Christendom.

It is well understood now, that all accession of "light," or understanding, must necessarily come into the world by means of individual men, and that "the light" is then almost invariably at first resisted to the uttermost by the great bulk of mankind; who perversely and stubbornly refuse to accept "the light" which is ultimately to be so greatly for

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