

to their new theme. Until thus wrested, undesignedly, indeed, but really it is utterly unfit for the work usually assigned it.

When these verses are supposed to contain a predestinating plan of salvation from guilt and depravity and when it is seen that in a passage supposed to treat professedly on this plan, there is an omission of the atoning work of God the Son, and of the other things referred to ; then the ground is laid for the inference, that the omitted things belong not to the plan of salvation at all ; or, at least, are of minor importance. So natural is the tendency to this result that we are prepared to hear that it has been realised ;—that even millions have, by such a process of thought, rejected the doctrines not expressed in these verses.

Dr. Lewis, Bishop of Ontario, in his recent charge to his Clergy, has traced this tendency in his own church, during the eighteenth century, which he calls "that dark age of the Reformed Church of England." He says : "The habit of viewing our salvation as the predetermined decree of God the Father, who elected and fixed an unalterable number from all eternity, by degrees drew men away from considering in its true significance the work of God the Son. The tendency of the human mind to disparage part of the system in proportion as it unduly magnifies another part, developed itself. As compared with God the Father's election of men to salvation, irrespective of anything but his own arbitrary decree, the work of God the Son appeared of second-rate importance, and gradually receded from view, till the result appeared in that widely-spread Arianism and open Socinianism which disgraced the church in the last century."

What happened in the Church of England, took place, on a far larger scale, among the Presbyterians. According to the Revd. Flavel Mines (*Looking for the Church*, p. 176) : "More than thirty millions of Presbyterians, in Switzerland, in Germany, in Ireland, in New England, in Old England, and wherever Presbyterianism has held sway ;—both pastors" (numbering "from fifteen to twenty thousand") "and parishes," ("from fifteen to twenty thousand,") "in one terrific mass, have disowned the Trinity, and denied the divinity of Jesus."