

We are persuaded that Mr. Spurgeon, on more mature reflection, will abandon such a sentiment. He will see that according to the teaching of that Word that furnishes the best system of political economy, a man's moral and religious character is an *essential* element in his fitness for office in either church or state, and that to exalt a wicked man to office, whatever be his intellectual and political excellencies, is to run counter to the will of Him who is the Governor among the nations, and to open the flood-gates for a more desolating licentiousness. Whatever men may say in the heat of political partizanship; looking at the matter from a Bible stand-point, we unhesitatingly express our conviction that the elevation of Bradlaugh to a seat in the Imperial Parliament is an outrage on the eternal immutable principles of truth and righteousness, and is an incalculable addition to the nation's guilt. By his action in the matter, we are persuaded, that Mr. Gladstone has inflicted a blow on his christian reputation, and his popularity as a professedly christian statesman, from which he is not likely soon to recover. He has left the impression on the minds of many of his ardent friends, that after all his pretensions, Party is more to him than Principle, and that an atheistic Liberal is of more account than a christian Conservative. It is not to be forgotten that the present Premier did good service to the cause of national christianity, by denouncing so fearlessly and faithfully the Afghan and Zulu wars of the Beaconsfield administration; and it was by his righteous denunciations of such wars, that he won his way to the hearts of British christians, and to his present honoured position. It will, nevertheless, be very hard to convince the majority of his supporters that the Beaconsfield Government ever committed an official act involving such a compromise of true christian principle, and so disastrous in its results on religion and morals, as that recent act of the national Legislature, by which, at the instigation and under the auspices of the Gladstone Cabinet, a blaspheming atheist has been allowed to take his seat in the Imperial Parliament.

THE PULPIT.

THE STORY OF GEHAZI, AND ITS LESSONS.

“But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from Mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive gar-

Vol 1, No 4, Aug 1880.