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## TALES OF THE TOWN.



**C**HRIStIANS, of all denomina-  
tions, may have some curiosity  
as to the belief of the new sect, the  
Christadelphians, which recently start-  
ed a place of worship in this city. I  
attended one of their meetings last Sun-  
day, and from one of the congregation  
I learned that the name Christadel-  
phian, adopted by the adherents of this  
persuasion, is derived from two Greek  
words, *Christou Adelphoi*, and means,  
"Brethren in Christ." The principal  
exposition of their distinctive tenets of  
religious belief, or rather their inter-  
pretation of Bible teaching, is to be  
found in a work by Robert Roberts, of  
Birmingham, Eng., entitled, "Twelve  
Lectures on the Teachings of the Bible  
in Relation to the Faiths of Christen-  
dom." In this work the principal  
teachings of orthodoxy—the immorta-  
lity of the soul, the equality of the  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost in the  
Trinity, the immediate translation of  
the soul at death to a state of blessed-  
ness or of punishment, the commonly  
accepted belief in the "end of the  
world" or the final destruction of  
material things, the existence of a per-  
sonal devil, and the idea that the pro-  
mised kingdom of God which His  
people are to inherit is in Heaven or  
apart from the earth—are boldly as-  
sailed, and the attack supported by a  
volume of Scriptural quotations that  
give evidence of an intimate knowledge  
and exhaustive research.

In opposition to the popular belief  
that man has a two-fold being, a physi-  
cal and a spiritual, and that the spiri-  
tual can exist apart from the physical,  
is denied. It is asserted that man is

essentially mortal in body and soul or  
life, which are interpreted and held to  
mean the same thing; that Jesus the  
only begotten Son of God, although  
standing on a higher plane than His  
fellowmen in being God's Son, en-  
dowed and commissioned for the work  
of purchasing resurrection and redemp-  
tion for mankind, is not equal, nor ever  
will be, to the Father; that He had no  
existence except in the purpose of the  
Father before his birth on earth; and  
that having accomplished the work en-  
trusted Him and brought all things  
under subjection, He will deliver up all  
to the Father, become subject, that  
"God may be all in all," when Christ  
is to reign for ever and ever over the  
kingdom of God established on earth  
among men.

It is further asserted that the Holy  
Spirit is God's agency for the accom-  
plishing of His purposes, and the main-  
taining of faith and hope among men,  
and this being accepted, the subordina-  
tion of the Spirit necessarily follows,  
the idea of agency precludes that of  
equality. The idea of the existence of  
the personal devil of popular belief hav-  
ing of his own an eternal, indestruct-  
ible existence, and so far as earth and  
hell are concerned, the power of being  
everywhere present and powerful, is  
discarded as contrary to the teaching  
of Scripture and the omnipotent power  
and the sovereignty of God. In the  
Christadelphian belief the devil, or evil,  
is regarded as an influence, a principle,  
and not an individual existence. It is  
taught that man at death does not go  
to Heaven, but remains in Hades, or  
the state of the dead, until the resur-  
rection, when he will be called forth by  
omnipotent power to judgment, and  
consigned to eternal oblivion in the  
second death, or eternal blessedness in  
the kingdom of God on earth.

Without expressing any opinion as to  
whether these conclusions are sound  
deductions from Scriptural teaching, it  
may in all fairness be conceded that in  
Mr. Roberts' work they are forcibly and  
ably presented and defended, and are  
likely to meet with favorable considera-  
tion from many intelligent investigators.  
The time for their presentment is pecu-  
liarly favorable for them. It is plainly  
evident to the observing mind that the  
existing systems of religious teaching  
are losing their hold on the great mass