

own times in comparison with those of other times. But I am optimist enough to believe, that with all its short-comings, our time is a time of religious progress, however much I may feel compelled to differ from some of my esteemed brethren as to wherein this progress consists.

Now if present religious progress be a reality and Baptists are not already in its current, and do not constitute with their individual and organized lives and activities a chief factor therein, it is assuredly high time that they were awaking to their responsibilities and grasping the flying opportunities to participate fully in the onward march of the kingdom of Christ.

My study of history and my knowledge of present-day religious life and thought have convinced me that Baptists and their spiritual ancestors have been ever in the very forefront of religious progress, and that they still hold this honorable position among the religious parties of the world. As I conceive the matter, Baptists have been, under God, the creators, to a great extent, of the opportunities for further religious progress that present themselves to the Christian world to-day. This very fact furnishes the strongest possible argument in favor of Baptists grasping and making the most of such opportunities as exist. If they have done nobly and achieved great things during the past centuries by very imperfectly putting into practice the high principles for which they have stood, it behooves them, inspired by success with ever greater confidence that their principles are God-given and that God will still own and use them as instruments in the extension of his kingdom, to go forward with united and well organized forces to still greater achievements for Christ and humanity.

At the risk of being common-place, I will enumerate some of the more important elements of present progress that may without impropriety be designated "religious," indicate my conception of the part Baptists have had in promoting this progress, and suggest some ways in which Baptists may avail themselves of the opportunities that present themselves of still further and more largely participating in current religious progress and in advancing the Redeemer's kingdom.

1. If I were asked wherein the Christianity of the present day is most noticeably in advance of the Christianity of a