

light, "shall we among them stand?" Remember our outward standard is not theirs, but such as Christ hath left us. There is a king in Israel, known; His laws of love, mercy, truth are before us—"As ye have received, so walk," remembering that God judgeth not according to mere outward seeming. Man judgeth from outward appearances, God judgeth from the heart.

May we be enabled to stand that all-searching test!

### ASSURANCE.

BY REV. W. W. SMITH, NEWMARKET, ONT.

Our salvation depends on the meritorious work of Christ, and His truth in telling us of it. But I cannot judge of Christ's truth by looking into my own heart! I may find whether I believe Him; but his worthiness *to be believed* is to me a matter of evidence, not of feeling. There is a serious mistake made here by many who have no assurance, because they are not considering "the record that God gave of His Son," but only their own feelings.

I have to cross a bridge. I have heard many conflicting reports about it. I have seen some who had utterly refused to trust themselves on it, while others assert they have gone over it. I am in sight of it, and my trouble increases. Shall I sit down, and ask myself, "Am I bold enough to go over it? Shall I risk it?" and stay there till I get my feelings wrought up to the pitch of rushing over it? No! I have taken up the wrong question. The only sensible question I ought to ask (and answer) is, "Is the bridge safe? Is it strong enough?" I shall not get these answers out of my feelings. I shall get them out of the right use of my senses and my judgment. I see people passing safely over it! Now, that is evidence the bridge is strong enough to bear others! I cautiously and carefully examine the foundations and the superstructure; and the evidence of my eyes pronounces it good. I get acquainted with the builder of it; and find he is a skilful and an honourable man. I take evidence as to dates, and I find it has not lasted yet nearly as long as it is intended to last. On every point, and at every turn, I find satisfactory evidence. Now I walk over with perfect confidence! I had, in fact, forgotten to

think about my feelings. My feelings had to follow my judgment: and my judgment was satisfied!

So about Christ. If you think He is not a safe Saviour, examine His credentials; test His character; listen to those who have been saved by Him: find out what His work is, and how He does it.

As said an old man in Scotland, who had been converted in his old age, and was now dying: "You see, I'll tell you how it is; He says it, and I just believe it; and that's all there is about it!" This is Assurance. God says He will save me if I trust Christ. I do trust Him (I surely know that much about myself!), and I know He will keep His word! That is the "Assurance of faith," and it is the only kind of Assurance the Bible offers me. The modern "Master, we would see a sign of Thee," is to look for visions, and trances, and wondrous ecstatic feelings, and to rely on these.

### THE RETIRING CHAIRMAN'S (REV. ALEX. MCGREGOR) ADDRESS

To the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, July 8, 1882.

(Concluded.)

Another noticeable feature of the times is the tendency to confederation in accomplishing great things in the secular and spiritual world. Is it an object of common interest to the commercial world to have the Suez Canal an accomplished fact; then by a common impulse the first European powers and the East join hand in hand, and speedily this consummation is secured. How great a prize this highway for the Old and New World is can be estimated by the action of today which England takes in sending out her forces to conserve the world's interest, whilst the war cloud threatens.

Does a similar necessity demand a similar provision across the Isthmus of Panama; then, drawn by a common instinct, France, England, and America plan and work for the future. This Dominion of ours, from ocean to ocean, is already the seed of a mighty nation. For its present and its growing wants is there needed a network of railways, and do not our eyes and ears, and purses too, understand the presence and power of Syndicates, general and local?