

trines; there is not among them a single infidel, or sceptic, or secularist, or Socinian, or a theological negativist. This fact was stated publicly in regard to the city of London, recently by one of its Christian workers.

III. Calling into court the last and greatest of all the witnesses, the Word of God, what do we hear it saying to us? Listen to Moses the great lawgiver: "Now therefore, hearken, O Israel, unto the *statutes* and unto the *judgments* which I teach you . . . teach them to thy sons and thy son's sons." Listen to Joshua the brave soldier: "Behold this stone shall be a witness unto us for it hath heard all the *words* of the Lord which he spake unto us; it shall therefore be a witness unto you lest ye deny your God." Listen to Solomon, the prince of philosophers: "Hear ye children the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding, for I give you good *doctrine*, forsake ye not my *law*." How great a value Jesus Christ put on dogma is seen in the fervent and elevated commendation, at variance in some measure from his usual habit of calm speech, with which he met Peter's confession of faith, than which nothing more abstractly dogmatical can be found in the Westminster Confession. "Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God." "The divinity of Christ here confessed," remarks an eminent writer, "is a dogma; for that dogma Jesus witnessed, for that dogma Jesus died." In the spirit of his Master, we find Paul, attaching so much importance to doctrine, that as a general rule he devotes the first and longer portion of his epistles to doctrinal discussions, closing up with short practical precepts, founded on these fundamental doctrines. In the famous letter to the Roman Christians, eleven chapters are devoted to dogma. Having found in the dogma of justification by faith, with its kindred doctrines, solid ground for his feet, he bursts out into the exultant cry "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God" (i.e., O the depth and the riches of Christian dogma), and then passes on to inculcate the practical duties of religion. He like a wise master-builder first lays the foundation deep down in doctrine and then proceeds to build on the foundation the practical duties of every day life. Like a wise husbandman he is