1900

Dr. McLaren, of Manchester, says, "We must be made fast to something that is fast, if we are not to be swept like thistle down before the wind." The need of the hour is to discover the rock of truth on which Christ has built His Church. We must seek and cultivate a spirit of reverence and submission, for thus saith the Lord: God in these last days speaks to us through His Son. We must seek and cultivate a spirit of Holy Ghost illumination, joined to a scholarly exegesis of the divine oracles, no matter where such leads or what doxies or orthodoxies such may upset.

In questions of eschatology there remains no room for extra-Biblical or many philosophical opinions. No evolution of human consciousness which has not its tap-root in an inspired record ought to be permitted to sit in judgment on things which till revealed were absolutely beyond our thinking.

Victor Hugo says: "The true pilot is the man who navigates the beds of the oce in even more than its surface." Let us who claim to be pilots study ocean-bed navigation.

Permit a brief review of theological drift during the past 100 or more years: At the beginning of this century we find a reaction from the hyper-Calvinism of Jonathan Edwards, and a drift was observed in the line of universalism. This current gradually weakened and took a modified form under the name of restorationism. The dogma had a glimmer of the sublime and a touch of logic about it, have having only an inferential basis its declension was only a matter of time. It ignored what many are of the conviction is a revelation, viz., that the great ellipse within which spiritual forces operate on the human race as spoken to by Christ, has its force in time, not beyond time.

Later the drift changed its base-line towards "conditional immortality." This current was deepened perhaps by the famous Oxford tractarian movement, of which Pusy and Newman were such noted leaders. Higher criticism by this time had its sword whetted, and gave the movement impetuosity, which many took for momentum.

Next appeared on the waves, generated by this later movement, sailing splendidly on—main sail, top sail—all sheets to the wind, that newly designed and modernly equipped racing-