

The number of predictions might be indefinitely prolonged, more especially if we mentioned those referring to Christ. Those I have mentioned were fulfilled to the letter. You will have noticed in all these alleged predictions how distinct and definite they are—how free from ambiguity. Now suppose for the moment that these predictions were published as long before the events as they claim to have been, and that the events have been realized as predicted, was it possible for the mind of man to have foreseen them? Is human prevision equal to an achievement like this? No. The probabilities never existed that would allow a man to foretell events in the distant future, so positively, so circumstantially and so truly as these prophets have done. It could only be done as they were inspired by God. As for Nineveh and Babylon, we have the attestation of profane history. As for Egypt, we know it has been in a state of degradation for many centuries, and continues until this day without a prince of its own. With respect to the four monarchies, all history assures us that the succession has been just as Daniel describes it.

But some one may say that these predictions may be only interpolations placed in these books after the events had taken place. It is easy to show the absurdity of such a theory. We know how jealously and with what respect the Jews regarded the scriptures—the almost superstitious dread with which they viewed the omission of a single letter. They even counted the words and letters. We have also the testimony of Josephus. There is also the Septuagint translation dating back B. C. 280; this betokens prior antiquity. In these predictions of the prophets then concerning Nineveh, Babylon, Egypt and the four monarchies, we do find the supernatural inspiration of God. Their utterances were prior to the event. The events were remote from human view. Their utterances were plain and clear. Their predictions were literally fulfilled. Therefore the subject-matter of their predictions was from God; just as surely as that Nineveh and Babylon have fallen, as that Egypt is degraded, and as that Rome became a universal conqueror.

We are not to think of the prophets as machines in the hands of a machinist, but rather as a child learning to walk; the child doing its own walking, the mother's hand guiding and upholding. The prophet's mind was actively at work, his own style of thinking and speaking are apparent; but the hand of the Holy Spirit was guiding his mental individuality, and holding him up against stumbling. Thus, the words were the prophet's, yet they were the words of the Holy Spirit.

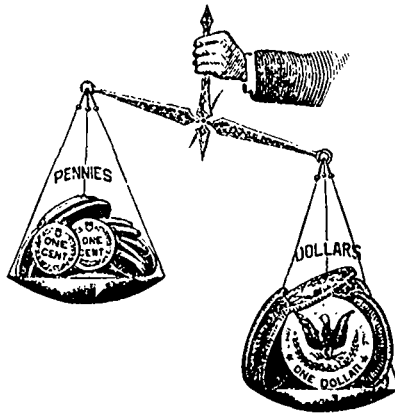
In my last article I showed that from the very plan and design of the Bible it was impossible for man to have written it. I have now shown from prophecy and its fulfilment that the predictions of the Bible are beyond the "ken" of man. Having made it impossible for man alone to have written it, we must conclude that holy men of old wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

"If all the Christians in Japan were congregated in the city of Osaka, (500,000) there would be in that city four times as many heathen as Christians, and not a single Christian in any other part of the country."

"The heathen are dying at the rate of a hundred thousand a day, and Christians are giving to save them at the rate of one-tenth of a cent a day."

THE APPORTIONMENT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

["For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened, but by an equality."—Paul.]



Every church in this country and Canada is asked for a definite amount for foreign missions in the approaching March offering. The requests were mailed December 10th, that the churches might have due time to arrange for the amounts. No church is asked for more than \$5.00, and none for less than \$1.00. The apportionment is made with great earnestness and in full confidence that it will be raised. If in any case the amount asked is believed to be too small or too great, and the church will so notify us, we will make the change on the books. But the amount should not be reduced except for the most vital reasons. If we do not hear from a church, to the contrary, within fifteen days, we assume that it accepts the amount requested as its apportionment for the year, and will undertake to raise it.

Last year 2,403 churches made contributions, and 540 of this number raised their full apportionment, or more. These are encouraging figures.

The apportionment should receive the most careful and prayerful attention by every church. for

1. The plan embraces the principles of equality or simple justice based upon scriptural teaching. See II. Cor. viii. 13.

2. The needs are greater than ever before. We have more missionaries and more stations. A company must be sent to Africa soon. The Dallas convention recommend that we send out twenty-five missionaries this year.

3. This is the supreme business of the churches. The commission is as binding upon us as upon the disciples who received it fresh from the lips of the risen Christ. Nineteen centuries have not awakened its imperative force.

A. McLEAN, } Sec.  
F. M. RAINS, }

GULLIVER'S COVE BUILDING FUND.

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Previously acknowledged, . . . . .             | \$278 43        |
| Mrs. H. Eldridge, Sandy Cove, N. S., . . . . . | 1 00            |
| J. Reid, Gulliver's Cove, N. S., . . . . .     | 4 00            |
| <b>Total, . . . . .</b>                        | <b>\$278 43</b> |

H. A. DEVOE, Treasurer.

South Range, N. S.

HALIFAX BUILDING FUND.

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Previously acknowledged, . . . . .                  | \$1,727 02        |
| Nov. 29 J. Parsons, Esq., Halifax, N. S., . . . . . | 5 00              |
| Dec. 2 A Friend, St. John, N. B., . . . . .         | 5 00              |
| " 8 H. A. Devoe, Digby Co., N. S., . . . . .        | 5 00              |
| " 8 Monte Walker, . . . . .                         | 10                |
| <b>Total, . . . . .</b>                             | <b>\$1,742 12</b> |

HENRY CARSON, Treasurer.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 24, 1895.

AGENTS FOR THE CHRISTIAN.

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DO WE USE REFERENCE BOOKS?

No, thank you, we do not need them. They went out with the birch stick and backwoods teacher. Normal schools were too much for them. And yet we hear of three business colleges in Canada trying to teach by means of them. One, however, has repented; the others will probably follow when they have learned to walk without crutches. Our recent increase of business is a gratifying proof that the results obtained by adherence to sound principles are appreciated by the public. Which short-hand? Isaac Pitman's, of course.

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