

falleth, but whether there be prophecies they shall fall; whether there be tongues they shall cease; whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away"; and therefore the gifts that they could bestow upon the church must continue until the revelation of God is completed; every word is spoken and confirmed; the last Amen, and the last apostle dies; then when the last apostle dies there is no more word to confirm. People say that we have just as much need now to have the word confirmed as in the apostolic times. Not if you understand the Scriptures. When you take a man in Hamilton on trial and pass sentence upon him and send him to the penitentiary for the crime committed, you do not need to bring him out of the penitentiary every three or four years and try him to see whether he is really guilty or not, the thing that made him guilty at the first will make him guilty for all time. That which confirmed the truth of God at the first will confirm it until the last trump shall sound—sufficient to every candid man. If there is any doubt of this man's guilt, you can go to the court house and examine the testimony and proceedings and see if everything is legitimate and regular. If you are in doubt about the confirmation of the word of God, the same evidence that confirmed it then confirms it—now, satisfactorily to all humble Christians.

That there are instantaneous cures I have admitted, but they are not worthy to be compared to the miracles recorded in the New Testament. The men that say that are inconsistent. They say God is no respecter of persons. Dr. Simpson says this, and yet why does he cure a woman in Memphis or elsewhere, why does he not exercise his power on the suffering in Hamilton, if God is not a respecter of persons. If I had the power I would not take time to eat my meals, but would relieve all the sick and distressed.

Now let us look at the next point: What kind of miracles did they perform? See Luke 4:40; "Now when the sun was setting all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them." No one was sent away that came to him to be healed. Not some exceptional cases which are trumpeted from one end of the world to the other; no difference what the disease was, the lame, the maimed, the deaf, even to the raising of the dead. Those who have been here recently say you must have faith. When people are not cured it is because they had not faith; how much faith had the widow of Nain's son when the Saviour raised him from the dead, how much faith had he lying on his bier, or Lazarus in his grave? How much had Jairus daughter when the Saviour went in and took her by the hand? In some cases the Saviour did demand their faith, as for instance where they had a chance to know him, but in most of the wonderful miracles there is not one word about their faith, He had enough power to heal them by simply laying on his hands. That was the kind of miracles performed. Dr. Simpson is building a house in New York; costing \$300,000 and has never begged a dollar from any man, but he quietly tells the Lord when he wants money and always gets it. God is no respecter of persons, but what he has done for him (Dr. Simpson) He is willing to do for all. I have been in poor circumstances and have known like the apostle, what it is to want, but I have never expected to get money from God. I would just as soon in praying "Give us this day our daily bread" expect to get a loaf from heaven as that He would send money.

Again about these cures that were performed as recorded in Acts 5: 15: we find that the sick were brought forth into the streets and laid on beds and couches, that at the least shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There was benefit even in the shadow of the apostles, and yet people will compare these miracles of the present day with the miracles in the New Testament. Again in Acts 28th, we learn that our Saviour's words were fulfilled, that they (the apostles) could stand the bite of venomous serpents. Again in the same chapter we learn that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever, to whom Paul entered in and prayed and laid his hands on him and healed him. Here was a heathen who did not know anything about Christ, a worshipper of idols whom Paul went in unto and healed; so when this was done others also who had diseases in the island came and were healed.

In conclusion I will sum up this way, first, we say these gifts were given to men to confirm the word of God. Second, for how long? As long as it was necessary—at least 30 years, and there and then ceased. Third, the kind of miracles? Any and all kinds even to the raising of the dead. This I want to tell you that although it was

possible to do these miracles, yet you might as the apostle says, be but as sounding brass or tinkling cymbals if you had not love for the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and faith enough in Him to follow Him. "And now abideth faith, hope and charity," or as it should be translated "love." If you possess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, hope in the promises of God, and love that will lead you to do His commands faithfully and diligently you have the promise of eternal life in the world to come, even if you never have been the subject of divine healing, or never had a spiritual gift. Wicked people perform the same cures as those performed by these modern curers, but in most cases there has been no lasting benefit.

We may be deceived in these things, but we are never deceived when we put our trust and confidence in what is written in this blessed volume, and by taking care that you do not apply to yourselves what was never meant for you. The Saviour said, I send you forth to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, but these men of whom we have been speaking take all that to themselves and think that they are meant. They make no distinction between what was written for the Jews or Gentiles, saint or sinner, but they find the sound of words and so apply it to themselves. Take care that you are not led away in that style; some portions of the New Testament are intended for you and for me; some portions for the apostles in their own day. May God help us to read it aright.

SELECTIONS.

AGITATION DOING ITS PERFECT WORK.

One of the most remarkable facts of the temperance reform is the growth of total abstinence sentiment, and the recognition by business men that the only safe rule is to keep one's head clear from alcohol. The Chicago Tribune in emphasizing the advice, "Don't drink in business hours," states that 95 per cent. of the men who fail in business "might have prospered had they not deliberately handicapped themselves by drinking just at the time when they needed normal brains most." The statement is probably none too strong. Fifty years ago only a few cranks and fanatics believed in total abstinence; now drinking even moderately is recognized by the best business men as dangerous. This marvelous revolution in public sentiment is a striking illustration of the mighty uplifting power of agitation. How rare such words in our great secular newspapers prior to the vote for St. John in 1884.—The Voice.

A SAD-FACED EMPRESS.

So strange and startling are the mutations of fortune that ere now perhaps we should be perfectly hardened to the reverses of those in high estate. Paris has harbored during the past week the Comtesse de Pierrcouds, who is no other than the Empress Eugenie. She has walked alone and unobserved in the garden of the Tuilleries, where formerly she reigned supreme, and she quietly attended mass in the Cathedral of Notre Dame, where, as Mlle. de Montijo, she was married to the Emperor of the French.

Sad, with sunken cheeks, lustreless eyes and vacillating step, such are the changes which have come over the once beautiful woman who, at the court ball, before the unhappy "march to Berlin" was inaugurated, cried in exultant tones to the Princess Metternich: "Remember, this is my war, not the Emperor's." She now passes unnoticed where she was once the observed of all. While here she is residing with her niece, the Duchesse de Mouchy, nee Princess Murat.—Paris Cable.

NEW BOOKS.

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- 2.—Yale Lectures on the Sunday School. By H. C. Trumbull, \$1.50.
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- 6.—The Training of the Twelve. By A. B. Bruce, D. D. 4th edition, revised, \$2.50.
- 7.—Jesus Christ, the Divine Man. By J. F. Vallings, M. A. \$1.00.
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TWO GENTLEMEN.

I saw two gentlemen on a street at to-day. One of them was grown up. He was handsomely dressed in a grey suit, and had very neat kid gloves and fine boots. The other was about twelve years old. His jacket had several patches and needed more, and his shirt was of brown cotton, and not very clean. Do you wonder how I knew he was a gentleman? I will tell you.

The boy went through the car to give some message to the driver. As he returned, he gave a little jump through the door, and as he did so, his bare foot touched the grown gentleman's knee and left a little mud on it. Turning around on the platform, he raised his straw hat and said very politely, in a clear tone, "Please excuse me." Then the other gentleman bowed in his turn, just as he would have done to one of his own age, and said with a pleasant smile, "Certainly."



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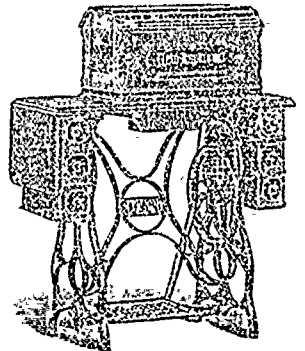
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