

Contributed Articles.

POWER AS AN ATTRIBUTE OF CHRIST'S TEACHING.

THE actual practical power of Christ's teaching vindicates his claim to divine honors.

1. It has satisfactorily solved the problems of the soul. All through human history there has run a dark thread of religious doubt. There are certain absorbing questions over which the world has been working, like a school boy over the puzzling mysteries of mathematics, and these problems every great system of philosophy or theology has tried to explain. These are no minor questions either: they touch life at vital points. What is God? What is man? Whence came he, whither goes he? How did sin come to be and how is it to be put away? How was the universe made? What is death and what is after death?

What answers have been given by even the best and purest schools of human thought? How unsatisfying—how absurd! Think of the shocking and monstrous errors into which mankind have been betrayed in seeking peace with oneself and with God! Idolatry, with human sacrifice and consecrated sensuality—pantheism, atheism, materialism—every form of error in doctrine and evil in practice has been linked with the name of religion. Now turn to the Christ of God—has He thrown the light of Heaven on these dark questions? Think of that cross which is the central and focal point of history, toward which all lines converge from creation—from which all diverge to redemption completed in Heaven; look at Calvary and in the speechless anguish of the Lamb of God, behold every problem forever solved. Do you ask, "What is God?" Here you learn: He is love: too just to redeem the sinner without a ransom—too pure to admit him to heaven without holiness—too good to leave him to certain ruin. Do you ask, "What is man?" Look again at Calvary. Man must have been sinful, else why should the sinless One suffer in his stead—man must have been immortal for there would be no such sacrifice simply to save him from *temporal* woe. Man must be free and responsible, otherwise both *guilt* and *faith* would be impos-