

# THE NATURE AND THE VALUE OF THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL.

Great exertions have been made of late years by a few devoted Christians, to extend the knowledge of the Gospel in this Province; and more particularly to convey the glad tidings of salvation, unfettered by human systems, and unadulterated by human doctrines, to the French-Canadians. We say but a few, for the greater part of the nominally Christian community take very little interest in the matter. They seem to regard missionary enterprise and missionary operations generally, as evidences of enthusiasm or unnecessary zeal; and entertain the scarcely concealed opinion, that those who are ignorant of the Gospel in its purity, may get on both in this world and the next, as well as their more highly favoured neighbours. Hence the apathy which such individuals manifest about the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, and the conversion of their ignorant fellow-creatures to the life and purity of the Christian religion. Indeed, so far as the Roman Catholics of Canada are concerned, we often hear it repeated, that they are upon the whole a tolerably moral people; that they are happy and contented; and that it would be doubtful, if not bad policy, to disturb the serenity of such a state of things by religious disputation. This reasoning extinguishes Christian sympathy and effort at once, and is as unchristian as it is selfish.

The object of the present article is to exhibit some of the practical benefits of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to those who embrace it in truth and sincerity. It will thus show what they lose, who remain ignorant of the knowledge that maketh wise unto salvation—move the devoted Christian to gratitude and adoration, in view of his own mercies and his Saviour's love—and incite the callous and covetous professor of Christianity, to feeling and liberality in the cause of benevolence and truth.

The writer can speak with certainty of the blessed results, which the knowledge of the glorious Gospel has produced on the minds of many of our benighted countrymen of all ages, who were till lately unacquainted with its simple

truths:—moral revolutions, effected solely by its renovating power. We will proceed, then, to notice—*The immense practical benefits which accompany and crown our reception of the great Salvation.* And, in so doing, we do not profess to bring forward any thing *new* or *original*; on the contrary, the commonest and most generally known truths will be exhibited, for this very simple reason, that although most intimately connected with our duty and our destiny, they are, it is well known, most easily forgotten, and most commonly neglected.

I. *This is a salvation from the dominion of sin.*—When the multitude convinced by the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, enquired what they should do, the Apostle Peter exhorted them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they should receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. But for what purpose did they receive that gift? The temporary and inferior object of it in our opinion was, the power to work miracles, and to speak with tongues in attestation of the divinity of the Gospel; the paramount and superior one, the emplanting of a new and living principle in the soul, which would enable it to resist and subdue the powerful and corrupt principles of our fallen nature. Before believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, all men are emphatically the *servants* of sin; but upon their reception of the Gospel, the spiritual warfare commences. This is not true of the ungodly and unconverted, who are led captive by Satan at his will, and *who love to have it so*, but is the characteristic of those only who feel as strangers and pilgrims upon earth, and who are seeking another and a better country. To such the faithfulness of God is pledged, that “sin shall not have dominion over” them. “When the enemy cometh in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” We know that sin and unbelief will continue to harass their mind, but we know also that the victory is certain, that the grace of God is amply sufficient, and that His strength will be shewn forth in their weakness. There is no promise that sin will not continue to trouble the Christian, but that by divine grace