

wherefore He hath anointed me, to preach the Gospel to the poor." And He said: "The poor you will always have with you." The early Christians were nearly all poor; the generality of the rich were too fond of ease and the honours of the world to embrace the religion of Jesus Christ, and too many at the present day are following their example. Riches form no sign of the true faith, for Jesus has said: "Woe to you that are filled: for you shall hunger" (Luke, vi. 25). "Amen, I say to you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus Christ did not promise riches to his followers; on the contrary, He predicted for them many trials and tribulations; and if the rich enter the kingdom of heaven, they must be poor in spirit—that is humble and lovers of the poor—for Jesus Christ has said that: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. v. 3). "Hearken, my dearest brethren: Hath not God chosen the poor heirs of the kingdom which God hath promised to them that love Him?" (James, ii. 5).

Q. Is it true to say that no matter what church a man belongs to, if he is honest and well-conducted, he will be saved?

A. Persons who care very little about any religion, and those holding ridiculous doctrines sometimes say this. Would it be of any use for Christ to establish a church on earth if people were not obliged to belong to it, or were left to make up a religion of their own fancy? The truth announced by Christ should not be a matter of indifference to us, as it is not to God