

THE GOOD NEWS.

A SEMI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL:

DEVOTED to the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the OLD AND YOUNG

RELIGION NOT CHRISTIANITY.

BY REV. H. B. WRAY, B.A., MINISTER OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND, LAKEFIELD, COUNTY ARGENTEUIL, C.E.

By Christianity I mean the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the supernatural revelation of God respecting the salvation of sinners.—By Religion I mean the natural theories of man; such a belief in a Superior being, and judgment to be passed upon him in a future state, as will lead him to propitiate the power which is to judge him. It would be difficult to find any one who was not influenced by some sense of religion, in this latter sense of the term.—Every one, however ignorant of the Gospel, has some religion of his own; sometimes it may be Christianity, sometimes a modification of Christianity, frequently a base counterfeit of it, and more frequently a most absurd compound of error and superstition.

Now, my fellow sinners, as I desire that you should be not only religious but Christian, I purpose setting before you in an elementary way, the distinctive principles and peculiar doctrines of Christianity. I shall on this occasion make a few introductory remarks in the shape of suggestive materials of thought, addressed chiefly to the young, which, may the Lord bless and make instrumental in bringing you all into the faith of those who were first called *Christians at Antioch*. Is it not surprising that the majority of professing Christians do not know what Christianity is; is it not more surprising that the majority of professedly Christian instructors, instead of teaching the distinctive

principles, doctrines, and duties of Christianity, teach the ethics and duties which are common to Heathen, Jewish, Pagan and all false systems of belief. Young people, who have no definite ideas upon such subjects, are not aware that almost all heathen philosophers inculcated virtue and morality, and that the Pagan devotee is far more influenced by his religion, than the majority of those Christians whose sincerity we are enabled to form a judgment of by observing their usual manner of life.

If Christianity rests upon certain fundamental principles, surely Christians should know what the first principles of their religion are. Most people believe Christianity to be true as a system, while few know what the peculiar truths of Christianity are. "I appeal," writes Hannah Moore, "to clergymen who are called to attend dying beds, do they not find, that the persons to whom they are addressing themselves, have no first principles to which they can be referred, that they are ignorant, not only of the science but the language of Christianity." Were you to ask the accomplished young lady whose education was finished at a first class school what Christianity is, perhaps she would answer that it was the religion of Christians, and perhaps with no more accurate knowledge of the subject than if she had said that Hindooism is the religion of Hindoos.

All preaching and other religious instruction is vague and superficial, out of