

Satan a Preacher.



An American writer gives, under this quaint title, the following remarks:—

1. He is the oldest preacher in the world. We do not know what he did in the preaching line before he began on earth; but he began here as soon as there was anybody to preach to. We think a preacher who has been at it nearly six thousand years may be called an old one, and yet,—

2. People do not dislike to hear him because he is old. Peoples' tastes have got to be such that other preachers, on the wrong side of fifty, must consider they are about done with using the Gospel trumpet. But nothing of this kind is urged respecting this old preacher. No! though he is so old, yet,—

3. He has large congregations. We have not seen any public edifices acknowledged as prepared for his use; but it matters not since he gets the use of them. And these temples are very large, some of them; and crowded they are at times, to suffocation. And often no public edifice would hold the numbers present when he is chief actor, as a battle-field, riot scenes, etc. Hundreds of thousands have been known to be in the audience at once. And yet,

4. He is a preacher who is not ashamed to preach to a very small congregation. At the first of his efforts in this world he had but a single auditor. Some Gospel preachers are quite sensitive on this point. They cannot preach unless you turn out a goodly number to hear them. Couldn't they take a hint from Satan on this subject? He is not particular about numbers. He'll preach to ten, to two, to one, to a child. He is—

5. Indefatigable in his preaching; who can doubt that? He has had little rest since he began. And he preaches everywhere—in palace and cot-

tage—parlour, attic, and cellar—cabin, fore-castle, and at mast-head—morning, evening, midnight—to the few, to the many—in the house, and by the way. Vigilant, active, enterprising; what an example, in these respects, to all other preachers!

6. As to success—the whole history of his labours proclaims this. His first sermon was successful, and every country, every community, every family, every heart, in every age, can furnish proof of his not having laboured in vain.

Two more things only have we to say of this preacher.

1. Though so successful, he has lost great numbers of his converts. More than any man can number have already reached heaven in spite of him. And great numbers in our day break their bonds, and escape their pitiful bondage. And more still, in coming ages, will toss the doctrines of the Old Preacher to the winds, and he may "roar" after them, but they will escape.

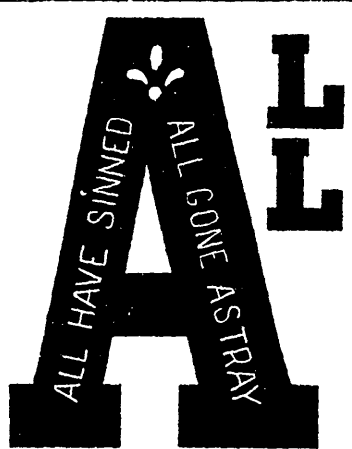
2. And he will have to stop preaching himself by-and-by. Not because he is old, nor because he is tired of the work and wishes to retire, nor because he has nothing more to say; but because He who is the Redeemer of His people will suffer him no longer to injure His kingdom.

There will be a great council, when an end will be put to his relation to this world, for all the redeemed of the Lord, and all the pure and good in the universe, will unite with the great Head of the church in his condemnation.

TRUTH is far more certain in the Bible, than in the mouth of an angel.

THE Scripture is a river of truth and love, that flows from God.

THE GOSPEL ALPHABET.



ALL gone aside.—Psalms xiv. 3.
 ALL under sin.—Galatians iii. 22.
 Wrath is against ALL that forsake Him.—Ezra viii. 22.

Not ALL the blood of beasts
 On Jewish altars slain,
 Could give the guilty conscience
 Or wash away the stain. [peace,

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
 Takes ALL our sins away;
 A Sacrifice of nobler name
 And richer blood than they.

He died for ALL.—2 Corinthians v. 14.
 ALL our iniquities laid on Him.—Isaiah liii. 6.
 God commendeth ALL men to repent.—Acts xvii. 30.