

CHURCH CREEDS

—AND—

LIBERTY.

TEXT :—*Earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the Saints.—Jude 3rd.*

The word "faith" in this text means "creed" or "confession of faith." It is agreed that the word "faith" here means the *object of faith*, or the fundamental truths of the Gospel. For this faith we are exhorted to "earnestly contend."

There are now, as in the days of Jude, "certain men crept in unawares," (or "privily" as the revised version reads) "ungodly men," who deny this "faith" or "creed" and all faith and all creeds. Of these men there are two classes : first, "liberal Christians," so called, who deny the only Lord Jesus Christ, and, secondly, infidels of every grade and Agnostics, who deny not only "our Lord Jesus Christ," but the "only Lord God" and all religious truth.

Now, "Liberal Christianity," and "Agnosticism," while craftily withholding a creed or confession of faith, yet have a creed, written or unwritten, for which they contend with a zeal worthy of a better cause. A fundamental tenet in their creed is the rejection of all creeds. Have we not during the last week in this city, heard the outcry against church creeds by one who required columns of a daily paper to unfold his private personal creed ?

The objections against church creeds, expressed or suppressed, may be summed up in a few words.