

of them must have been from above. We take, therefore, Christ first as a man. We find that He wrought miracles. We believe His word, for He has established His character for veracity. We find Him asserting that He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and pointing to His miracles as confirmatory of His assertion. We are bound to admit the truth of this in common with every other statement that he makes, especially when we consider the evidence to which He appeals in confirmation. And the conclusion therefore to which we are led is inevitable,—*He is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world.*

HARD TIMES.

It is admitted on all sides that the present aspect of the world is very gloomy and sad. War treads on the heels of commercial disaster, and the beautiful brow of Spring is bathed in blood. While the countries of Europe resemble so many camps resounding with preparation for battle, the people of the United States, but lately so strong, so proud, so secure, are in a paroxysm of fratricidal strife. These troubles deeply affect ourselves. Not only do we naturally share in the feverish restlessness and the deep sorrow that is always felt when blood is being shed, but our trade and commerce are seriously affected, and to that extent our ability to support the Church in her operations must be impaired. We have fallen on "hard times"—exciting, terrible times, when God has come to reckon with the nations for their iniquities. Perhaps we, in these Provinces, are much poorer than we were even last year. Money is scarce. Trade is dull. Times are hard. Therefore let us do as little as we can for the cause of God! Let us starve our ministers and cripple all the schemes of the Church!

Does not the heart of the reader instinctively revolt from the sentiment contained in the last two sentences? Is it not at once seen to be worldly, wicked? Yet we have only uttered in so many words what too many, bearing the name of Christ, express too plainly in their conduct. They would be horror-struck if their course of action were translated into plain language, forgetful of the fact that actions speak louder than words—that Christ will judge us, not by our professions, but by our works.

What then is the lesson of hard times. Our picture of the "present distress" is perhaps a little too dark. We have a great deal for which to be thankful. The actual scene of war is far from our borders. All our people have food and clothing. Our fields are green with the promise of an abundant harvest. Indeed our "mercies" are innumerable, and it becomes us thankfully to acknowledge that the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. We know nothing of the actualities of war, famine or pestilence. The toils, conflicts, tears, heartsinkings, that form the portion of our neighbours are almost unknown to us, at peace as we are among ourselves and at peace with all the world.

Yet there is sufficient cause for our pursuing the inquiry, What is our duty in these hard times?

God's object in sending hard times may be to try our faith. It is easy for the rich to give of their abundance. Will they, when they become straitened, give abundantly of their poverty? This is a test by which the world will try Church members, and by which men may well try their own hearts.

We must learn to endure hardness like good soldiers of Jesus Christ. He, the Captain of our Salvation, was made perfect through suffering. All his