

THE PLYMOUTH BRETHREN.

BY REV. DANIEL STEELE, D.D.

Second Paper.

According to these teachers, the first act of faith is the occasion on which the Holy Spirit eternally incorporates the believer into the risen and glorified body of Jesus Christ.

It may be safely said that the Plymouth doctrine finds their basis in a literalizing of figures, ingenious allegorizing of facts, and a straining of types.

These teachers have a special hostility to the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian perfection, against which they oppose perfection in Christ.

The Plymouth idea of entire sanctification is exceedingly complex and contradictory.

1. Our client never borrowed the kettle. 2. It was cracked when he borrowed it; 3. It was whole when he returned it.

Yet this motive to Christian purity is neutralized by the assurance that the believer's standing in Christ is eternal anyhow, just as the exhortation to sinners to repentance by a Universalist is a motive of

no force since ultimate salvation is certain. Says M'Intosh: "God will never reverse His decision as to what His people are as to standing."

The opening verse of 2 Cor., xii, speaks of visions and revelations of the Lord; the closing verse condemns uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness not repented of.

These theologians make a nice distinction between conscience of sin and consciousness of sins, where neither the Bible nor moral science affords the least ground for this distinction.

It is so "fully brought out" that it took 1,800 years for Bible readers to discover it, and then only through Plymouth eyeglasses!

Another text constantly urged by them in utter disregard to the context is Gal. v, 17, which, by that fallacy in logic called "begging the question," they assume to be descriptive of the most perfect specimen of the Spirit's work in a human soul.

In believers in this mixed moral state a struggle is going on between the flesh and the spirit. The fallacy lies in the assumption that the best Christians are in this state, against the positive testimony of St. Paul.

A Scottish blacksmith being asked what was the meaning of Metaphysics, replied: "When the party who leestens disna ken what the party who speaks means, an' when the party who speaks disna ken what he means hissel—that's Metaphysics."

DOCTRINAL IDEAS OF THE BIBLE.

In a few instances the English Bible gives the term "holy" rather inaccurately as the rendering of Hebrew and Greek words which properly denote kindness or benignity.

A SERPENT AMONG THE BOOKS.—One day a gentleman in India went into his library and took down a book from the shelves.

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

The great wall of China was measured in many places by Mr. Unthank, an American engineer lately engaged on a survey for a Chinese railway.

THE NINETY AND NINE.

A humble lady in Melrose, Scotland, was led to see the beauty of the character of Christ in the parable of the Good Shepherd.

The poem was published in a local paper, and the lady soon afterwards died, and went to the Good Shepherd, whose love for the wandering and perishing had gained the affections and service of her life.

The efforts of a sincere life always meet the needs of others, and are often given, under Providence, a special mission in the world.

The American evangelist, Mr. Sankey, was one day returning from Edinburgh to Glasgow, to hold a farewell meeting there.

Mr. Sankey, on this occasion, desired to introduce a new hymn which should represent Christ as a compassionate and all-sufficient Saviour.

Next day the little tune or chant that it is set to came to me.

We went into the noon meeting, and Dr. Bonner, who has written so many beautiful hymns—I was a Wandering Sheep and did not love the fold, and I heard the voice of Jesus say, come unto me and rest—he was there, and the thought came to me, we must sing this new hymn that the Lord has sent us.

The tune had scarcely formed itself in my head yet, but I just cut the words from the paper, put it in front of me on the organ and began to sing them, hardly knowing where the tune was coming from.

The meeting was a very crowded one, and tender feelings were awakened in all hearts, bringing vividly to all minds as it did, the fact the world is full of farewells.

Away in the gallery there sat a lady who was at first startled, and then deeply affected by the hymn.

The hymn had had a tender mission. Thousands seeking the helps of a power outside of their own sinful nature, have seen in it the vision that the prophet saw: "And I looked and there was none to help, and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me."

Her attendance upon the public worship of God, and the great interest she ever manifested in every thing connected with the house of her God, clearly indicated that she loved "the gates of Zion more than the dwellings of Jacob."

About the 1st of October she was suddenly seized with typhoid fever, which proved too powerful for her delicate constitution.

A bright light has passed from the home circle, from the church and community; but its rays yet linger, and as the dark clouds of sorrow are rolling and heaving around the bereaved ones, they are tinged with gold.

She was an affectionate wife and loving mother, and by constant care and holy living stamped her character, to a great extent, upon her family, which consisted of one son and four daughters, all of whom she had the unspeakable pleasure of seeing converted to God and made members of the church of her choice.

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J. K. KING.

MR. JOHN MILLER.

Bro. Miller died at his residence near Bathurst, N. B., Sept. 14. Four days before his death he was in the enjoyment of his usual good health; but suddenly stricken, the disease, though not apparently serious at first, baffled the skill of the physicians in attendance till it terminated fatally.

L. H.

MRS. E. P. BORDEN.

Died at Wolfville, August 15th, Olivia, wife of Edward P. Borden, aged 66 years, Mrs. Borden was daughter of Mr. Wm. Martin of Cornwallis, was married in 1838, and was a consistent member of the Methodist Church for upwards of forty years.

MISS ORISSA KING.

The beloved and only child of Rev. M. King, Esq., of Upper Mills, Charlotte Co., N.B., passed peacefully away to her heavenly home October 15th, 1877, aged 33 years.

About 3 years ago, under the faithful ministry of Rev. James Taylor, Miss King experienced the converting grace of God, and united with the Methodist Church.

She was always of a very unselfish disposition, and seemed to live for the good of others. This trait or feature of her character was more clearly seen after her conversion.

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