

reached even by free seats. It may, however, be a question worth considering, whether for poor localities it would not be a Christian act to plant an endowed church, thus financially free to do an earnest work."

Since the above was written, we clip the following from an exchange, expressing the hope that the effort may continue successful, and forbear expressing our fear:—

"The free-seat system has proved a success in the First Baptist Church, Brooklyn. Voluntary contributions during the past year have been sufficient to defray all the expenses and leave a balance in the treasury. Dr. Thomas and his people are hopeful about the future."

## FAITH'S ROLL CALL.—II.

### ENOCH.

As of Abel, so of Enoch, few and brief are the allusions in the Scriptures made to either his character or his life. We notice them all. It may be noted that Cain had a son, and built a city of the same name (Gen. iv. 17), though no light is thereby shed on our subject.

The name occurs in the genealogies (1 Chron. i. 3; Luke iii. 37), of which nothing more can be said. We then have the record Gen. v. 18-24; then Heb. xi. 5, 6: "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Also Jude 14, 15: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him"—from these all our information must be drawn.

The quotation from Jude suggests remembrance of a book found in apocalyptic literature of the period immediately preceding the advent of Christ. Jude quotes from the prophecies of Enoch. "The Book of Enoch" contains this quotation. Did Jude quote therefrom? or did he simply speak from a tradition common both to the writer of the Book of

Enoch and himself? This Book of Enoch contains passages of religious power, is full also of Rabbinical legends and Talmudic conceits. It professes to relate the fall of the angels, their guilty loves with the daughters of men—unfolds the mysteries of heaven, through which the writer had been guided by a supernatural attendant—gives some lofty but scarcely scriptural conceptions of the expected and coming Messiah. It, however, presents no information the Scripture student feels justified in accepting regarding Enoch and his history.

Attention has been drawn to the fact that Enoch was the "seventh" from Adam, and that the years of his life correspond in number (365) to the days of the solar year. From this an attempt has been made to identify Enoch with the mythical god of the year, which at its completion "is not" when the new begins. On very slender threads men hang heavy theories, and call that scientific research! We need not be detained a moment thereby. Nor need we attempt any detail as to Enoch's translation, "that he should not see death," its manner or character; there are passages that imply similar changes when the consummation comes and the last are to be gathered home. (1 Cor. xv. 51, 52): "Behold, I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but *we shall all be changed*, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Thess. iv. 16-18): "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

I have no speculation to add to these utterances of the inspiring Spirit. Gen. v. 24, as read in the light of such passages, however, implies that Enoch's translation, though in detail unique, may in practical effect be attained by every humble walker with his God.

I. (1) The prophet's message gives an insight into the times and circumstances which called forth his words. When Howard urged pri-