

against them, I have determined to place their doctrines before you and prove to you that they are "false and erroneous."

"At my Ordination I promised to 'banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's Word,' and the doctrines of these people are, in the highest degree 'erroneous, strange and contrary to God's Word.'"

The words of my text are, it is true, strong words, yet I hope to show you that, strong as they are, they apply to these people. I hope to shew you: 1st. That their doctrines are pernicious heresies; 2nd. That they "bring in these doctrines privily"; and 3rd, by implication "deny the Lord that bought them." I wish to shew you: 4th. That "many have followed their pernicious ways" and to give a reason for it; 5th. That by them "the way of truth is evil spoken of; and 6th. That their preachers are "false teachers." I shall then examine what truth really is, and where it is to be found.

In taking up these points I confess I labor under some disadvantages, because the brethren have no written creed or formula of belief from which I can prove what their doctrines really are, so I have to be content with what information I can get from their books and pamphlets, and reports of their sermons. But still they have been so often heard in this country lately, and their tracts have been so extensively circulated everywhere that their "creed" is pretty well known.*

I wish it to be observed, my brethren, that I have no desire to carry on a controversy with these people, for the simple reason, that they do not receive the whole Bible as God's truth, and with such people I will never argue. I know enough of these people to be able to state that all texts which do not suit their peculiar views they reject on the grounds that they do not apply to the *present age of Christianity*. For instance, if I quote a saying of our Lord's which flatly contradicts their views they tell me that he meant that only for the Jews, or only for the Pharisees, or only for the Apostles (as the case might be,) and *not for us*; but any thing our Lord said which suits them was meant for us *as well as* for the Jews or the Pharisees or the Apostles. One of their great preachers, a Mr. Needham, was met once by a plain statement of our Lord's, which contradicted his favorite doctrine, and he got out of the difficulty by saying that our Lord at that time spoke in irony! He was not in earnest! With such people no sensible man would argue.

*See "Faiths of the World," in loc., where an admirable summary of their doctrines is given.