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PRESENT DUTY.

Never was there a louder call than now to all God's faithful soldiers to rally bravely round the Master's standard and fight without fainting or weariness the Master's battle. Error is beyond example active. The Enemy is gathering his forces and closing up his ranks as for a decisive effort. Surely it is high time for the friends of Christ to hush every murmur of internal strife and to present a united front to the foe. The points assailed may be briefly indicated.

1. **INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.**—God gave us his word to be our rule of faith and of life. Without it we should wander helplessly and hopelessly through the wild dark mazes of error, knowing neither what to do nor what to believe. Every true Christian delights in regarding it as his compass and chart through the stormy voyage of life. This precious treasure is now assailed with every weapon which ingenuity can devise—assailed by ministers of the gospel who are paid by the state to preach sound doctrine—assailed by “right reverend bishops” and by host of humbler imitators. Popery and infidelity, pretentious churchmanship, and science falsely so called, unite in this if in nothing else, and seem to have an equal interest in casting off the authority of the Written Word.

Happily however, the Bible was never before circulated with so much vigor, read in so many languages, or cherished in so many hearts. God has his faithful witnesses in the fields of science, as well as in the

pulpit and the church. Reader, on whose side are you? Do you acknowledge the word of God, lay up its doctrines in your heart and practice them in your life? If not, your “lip-orthodoxy” will not serve you: you might as well be a Strauss, a Renan, or a Colenso.

2. **THE SABBATH.**—From a most unexpected quarter the assault has come, and it continues to come. Men who have sworn to our own confessions and catechisms, and who are pledged to teach the doctrines therein contained; men who at least in name are Presbyterians, tell us that the Sabbath day is but a Jewish institution; that the fourth commandment has been done away with; that indeed all the ten commandments were abrogated more than eighteen hundred years ago. The mouth of the scoffer has been filled with arguments borrowed from Glasgow pulpits; and the Sabbath-breaker goes on his way gleefully under the broad shield of one of Her Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland.

But here again there is ground for encouragement. The people have been stirred up to “Search the Scriptures.” Able men in all the churches have stood forth to vindicate the authority of the Lord's day; and though the faith of some has been rudely shaken, multitudes have been confirmed and enlightened in their hold upon the truth. The battle must unquestionably be fought out, not in Britain merely, but in all the Colonies. Let us prepare for it by “Remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy,” and cherishing the holy law of our Lord in our hearts.