

CHRISTIANITY CLAIMS THE ALLEGIANCE OF NATIONS.

1. *Civil government is a divine institution.* It is not a voluntary association, like a business corporation, and it does not originate in any social compact. Historically, man never existed without some form of civil society, nor can he escape from it if he would. He does not enter it of his own will; he is born into it. The tendency to political organization is imbedded in human nature, and is therefore divine. Thus the Scriptures teach: "The powers that be are ordained of God." The will of God, however revealed, is therefore of supreme authority in civil government.

2. *The Lord Jesus Christ has been clothed with authority over the nations.* Those who entertain the most diverse views of his person and the nature of his mission to the earth concur in ascribing to him the rights of Supreme Governor of the world. It is difficult to see how any one who accepts the Bible as the word of God can think otherwise. He himself says: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." He is declared to be "Head over all things to his church, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow." And lest any doubt should remain whether these vast moral persons, the nations of the earth are included in these declarations, he is expressly announced as the "Prince of the Kings of the earth," and appears in vision wearing "on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords.'" These are not empty titles. They invest the teachings of Jesus Christ with the force of supreme law on all points which may be involved in the conduct of nations. Hence,

3. *The Bible, as a revelation of the will of Christ, is of supreme authority in civil affairs.* A great part of the Bible is the record of God's dealings with nations, and much of it is directly addressed to nations by the prophets who spoke in his name. These things are written for our instruction. On all moral questions, for nations as for individuals, the Holy Scriptures are the ultimate standard of appeal.—*Christian Statesman.*

THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER.

The following, which we copy by permission from "*Ismael on the Temperance Question*," is a true story of rum's doings and we trust shall prove interesting and profitable to our readers:—

In a remote section of Western New Brunswick there lived many years ago a man whose career was shrouded in mystery, and of whose antecedents the most rying curiosity could gain no knowledge. He was about fifty years of age, of portly appearance, of gentlemanly manners, and easy and unassuming in all his ways. He had evidently moved in respectable circles, and his decidedly English accent left no doubt as to his nationality. If not rich, he was comfortable, and, considering the isolation of the place in which he resided, enjoyed many of the luxuries of life. He had neither wife nor child, and his whole establishment consisted of himself and a male and female domestic who had accompanied him thither. And while master and servants were kind to all they were