

Himself, in the matter and modes of pulpit ministrations, shall be reckoned a questionable innovation. It becomes all faithful standard-bearers to preach Christ crucified with all the more earnestness and unction than ever, and to give overwhelming proofs of their ministry. They are the best defenders of the faith once delivered to the saints, who hide themselves best behind the greatness of their message, and at the feet of the Divine Master who has sent them to proclaim that message, and not their own winds of doctrine.

To all who love the truth for its own sake, there is a pleasing variety in the scriptural modes of preaching the pure gospel. By no means can it be made more impressive than when embodied, on the part of its teachers, in the proprieties of a holy living. It is there a thing of life, "a living epistle, known and read of all men." Thus presented, it is the best sermon in the world.

When the messengers of the Churches are the glory of Christ, the progress of the gospel is a great success. The treasure is placed in earthen vessels that the power may appear to be of God. There is an unseen power in the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. "The foolishness of God is wiser than men. The weakness of God is stronger than men." The truth is mighty and shall prevail. It is our business here and elsewhere to devise means for the training and support of an enlightened, pious and earnest ministry; to search out a field for every laborer, and to find a laborer for every field of christian effort; and to fill all the pulpits of the land with "sons of thunder" and "sons of consolation." This done, it is our duty to pray without ceasing, that our works of faith and labors of love in the Home and Foreign fields may not be in vain in the Lord.

Fathers and Brethren, the gospel we have been commissioned to preach is the instrument by which the world's regeneration must be effected. The great body of human society may advance, in the course of ages, in successive stages of enlightenment. Science may shed new light on the laws of matter; philosophy may achieve new triumphs in the field of intellectual speculation; and human eloquence may address itself to men through finer organs: but the message which has been delivered to us is susceptible of no improvement at the hands of man. It is ours to utter faithfully and profess sincerely what God has revealed, assured that, if we do so, the effectual blessing of the Master will follow. To the dark brow of error let us oppose the clear eye of truth, and error will be stared out of countenance, and retreat from the view. The meekness of faith will subdue the haughtiness of presumption; the complacency of goodness will rebuke the turbulence of passion; the majesty of virtue will conquer the baseness of vice; and the kingdom of Christ will calmly and steadily advance until the

whole earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to God.

To bring about this issue, let us, as ministers of the Gospel, employ all the means which God puts within our power. Let us, in this our day, endeavor to walk in the footsteps of the faithful and the brave who have gone before us, bearing aloft the banner of the Cross, and looking unto Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. Since our last meeting, the Father of our Church in this Province has been removed from all his labors, and called, we may devoutly believe, to take his place in the general assembly of the Church of the first-born. We cannot think of the departure of that devoted minister and missionary without having suggested to our minds many noble points of Christian character which it would be well for us to imitate. His zeal for the interests of religion was fervent and pure, so that while it was associated with a singularly strong attachment to the Church of Scotland, there was in it no alloy of bitterness towards any other denomination of Christians. He was the last and not the least of a little patriarchal hand who stood firm at their post in times of temptation and trial; and before he departed, he had the joy of beholding around him the increasing fruits of his long and loving labors. Let us make full proof of our ministry by abounding in all good words and works, and continuing faithful to the end. Our work and our reward are before us; "and they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever." AMEN.

Reply to "A. P.," on the Use of Instrumental Aid in Public Praise.

(Continued.)

I THINK I have already sufficiently shewn that the statement, were it true, that instrumental music formed a part of, and was interwoven with, the whole worship of the Jewish Church, would furnish no warrant for us unless it could be shewn that the New Testament, by express, or at least implied sanction, recognized it. In reference to this I made no sweeping assertions. I merely stated the fact that both the judicial and ceremonial laws ceased, *as laws*, with the termination of the Jewish commonwealth. As this fact cannot be disputed, it clearly follows that, if any contend for the continued obligation of any particular peculiar to these laws or that dispensation, he must be prepared to shew that obligation, not by appealing to Jewish or Mosaic laws, or to the Jewish dispensation, which have passed. The appeal must be to the dispensation that has succeeded and is now in force. This holds true of all the observances which arose under that dispensa-