

Thoughts on the Present State of Christ's Cause.

THIS age of ours is replete with important peculiarities. It behoves us to be on our guard, that we may candidly examine matters, a hasty and prejudiced view of which will be fraught with disastrous consequences both to ourselves, and especially to the cause of Christ. It were folly to close our eyes to those distinctive features which God himself has undoubtedly impressed so vividly upon these times of peculiar moment.

We would direct attention only to those which are immediately connected with the aims and labours of the disciples of Jesus.

The decline of sacerdotalism in the ministry, and the God begotten thirst for the living streams of the Word, are perhaps the most momentous characteristics of our times which effect the cause we hold so dear,

The decline of sacerdotalism in our ministry.

No one, who has the love of the living Redeemer in his heart, can fail to see with joy that the minister of the Lord Jesus is fast withdrawing from any semblance of priestly functions. The last vestiges of Romanism are being slowly but surely obliterated from true Protestant denominations.

The separation, once so complete, between the ministry and membership is being gradually removed. That exclusiveness, which would hinder one from trespassing on the domain of the other, is giving place to a grand *fellowship* of service.

In the worship of the Holy One of Israel we are all "kings and *priests* unto God," "a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual service, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

The worship of the weakest believer, the humblest priest, comes up before the throne of God with as sweet a savour as that of the strongest and noblest.

And again our pastor worships not, offers no sacrifices for us, he stands not as a meditator, for there is "one meditator between God and man;" but "by him (*i.e.* Christ) let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his names."