

(For the Canadian Day Star.)

Messrs. Editors,—I intend, at this time to jot down one or two plain, common-sense observations on the doctrine of Calvinism or unconditional election. I do not intend to go into the theology of the question, but just to make a few simple remarks, adapted to the understanding of plain, common-sense men and women, and if you think them suitable for the *Star* please to give them a corner in your valuable paper.

I have no doubt but that you, as well as most of your readers, have read "Holy Willie's Prayer," (by our national bard Burns). In that prayer Holy Willie says: that God sends

"Ane to heaven and ten to hell
A' for thy glory,
And no for ony good or ill they've done
Afore thee."

Such language looks like burlesque, but it is a true statement of the doctrine of Calvinism, as taught by the church at the time when Burns wrote.

I think I hear some one say that such a doctrine might have been preached in the days when Burns wrote, but that we have outgrown it now. This, I am glad to say, is, in some measure, the case; thanks to such men as Morison and kindred spirits who were not afraid to speak out and testify for the truth.

The Confession of Faith, and other statements of the church, teach the doctrine. And if it is not now preached as formerly, it is because ministers know that the common-sense of their hearers would not stand it; so they have to keep it in the back ground. This I call dishonest. If the doctrine is good and true, the oftener it is proclaimed the better; and if it is not good and true, the sooner it is given up the better. I like men to be honest and not pretend to believe a thing when they don't. Though most of our ministers speak and act as if they were half ashamed of Calvinism, there are others who still come out boldly and defend it. I have now before me a paper called the *Canada Observer*, printed at Toronto. It is the organ of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. In this paper Calvinism is taught in the strongest and most out-spoken manner; not any half-way system, but Calvinism as pure and unadulterated as even "Holy Willie's Prayer;" and, though I do not agree with the sentiments of the writer, still I admire his honesty; he speaks out so that you can understand him: this is what I like. You know just where to find such a writer; you do not require to dig down and hunt round to find his meaning. I will quote from a leading article of the paper, published 4th Feb., 1863. The writer says:

"We maintain therefore that God most blessed, most sovereign, and most loving, hath, from all eternity, elected certain individuals to eternal life, hath determined that certain persons, sinners, and so under just condemnation and wrath, shall be delivered from wrath and condemnation by means of a righteous atonement made to justice, and shall be taken into his favour and receive eternal blessedness. He hath determined this concerning a number, a definite number, neither more nor less. And not merely is the number determined but the individuals that compose it—all those who, in the great day of assize shall be placed on