

*cloudy covering* which at once *shadows forth* and *hides* its insufferable divine light. (Ex. 19: 10-25; Ex. 34: 27-35; 2 Cor. 3 all; Heb. 12: 29, and 10: 19, 20, Pa. 99: 7, Mat. 26: 64, Rev. 14: 14.) "No prophecy of Holy Scripture is of mere private interpretation," (Text.) "Never did it come by the will of man," (so reads the original) No doubt the Prophets often searched in vain to know the meaning of the prophecies they conveyed (1 Pet. 1: 10-12.) But this only confirms the truth that Christ is the spirit and life of the Word, its alpha its omega its All in all. To Him give all the prophets witness. His testimony is ever the spirit of prophecy, for He alone is the Living Word of God. (Rev. 19: 14; John 1: 1-5, Rev. 19: 10, Acts 3: 24, Acts 10: 43.)

Never forget this Divine Text, for it is a First Truth. "Knowing this *first* that *no* prophecy of the Scripture is of any *private* interpretation." Of course every prophecy has its *private* occasion, but that is never its *interpretation*. The fatal blunder of the Rationalistic critics lies in rejecting this truth, as the mere naturalist always does. Hence he cannot perceive that God's word is three in one, as God's one Temple consists of Basis, Structure, and Copestone. The letter of Scripture is the Basis; the spirit of Scripture moulds the Structure or body of the Church: while the life of Scripture as well as its spirit and letter, is wholly derived from its Divine Head in heaven, who is at once the Topstone, Cornerstone, Foundation Rock, and the All in All of temple, Word, and Church alike. "His train filleteth the temple," but "His fullness filleth All in All." Isaiah 6: 1; Eph. 1: 23; Eph. 4: 10.

This is soul-saving wisdom. For want of it the sceptic thinks the Bible very shallow; the ignorant find it very dry; and the unenlightened minister preaches elegantly without Christ! This is "to take away the key of knowledge." Luke, 11: 52. When such a preacher said, "but Christ is not in my text," an old Christian replied, "then you have not found the spirit of your text at all." This is true! Oh that our young people only knew how to open the infinite treasures of Scripture with this "key of knowledge!" It would

be more delightful to them than all the picture galleries of the British museum, and all the histories, novels and poetry that genius ever breathed!

When you, my dear brethren and sisters, have learned to believe and obey these Divine truths in love, then indeed has the day dawned and the Morning star arisen in your hearts. Then Christ shall dwell in your hearts by faith, love and new obedience. Then you shall have the witness of His Spirit in yourself, and shall become of one spirit with Him, who is at once the Son of Man, and the Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace; of the increase of whose government and peace there shall be no end! (Isa. 9: 6, 7.)

Receive His soul-saving word and spirit and life into your heart to-day, oh, even now! the accepted time, the day of salvation! Devote your self to Him, in spirit, soul and body, by humble faith and love and new obedience, from this very hour, and henceforth even or ever and ever! Amen and Amen!

## OUR OWN CHURCH & COUNTRY.

### NOVA SCOTIA.

PICTONIAN ABROAD.—Rev. D. M. Gordon, the faithful and zealous pastor of Knox church, left one of the most flourishing congregations in Ottawa two years ago to come to Winnipeg to assume the pastorate of Knox church. His stipend was stipulated at \$4,000 per annum, with a manse. Last year, seeing the heavy liability of Knox church, he requested the congregation to have his salary reduced \$1,000, but the congregation did not see fit to do so. They thought it would be a most unfair and unjust thing to do, and passed a resolution to this effect, and also assuring him that they would do all in their power to sustain his efforts. At the annual congregational meeting last night a letter was read from him, asking that his salary be reduced owing to the large expenditure and debt in connection with the church. The reading of the letter caused a good deal of discussion. Wm. McGregor, M. P., thought it would be an unfair thing to accept the offer of Mr. Gordon. C. N. Bell said in connection with the subscription list that the name of Mr. Gordon was always at the head, and if his salary was reduced the pastor would have to curtail his giving accordingly. He would not like to see the offer accepted. Wm. Bathgate said that while he fully appreciated Mr. Gordon's kind offer he thought the congregation were of one mind in the matter of their pastor stipend.