

QUERY.

Is the word of God, which is called the New Testament, a *dead letter*, as many affirm, or is it not? A.

REPLY.

Three hundred and twenty five years have elapsed since Luther wrote his letter of disconnection with the Pope, and now such a question asked! How unaccountably slow the progress of reformation.

In reference to the matter of answering, Solomon gives us two different kinds of maxims, for two different kinds of men. And as the ways of prudence have not materially changed since these rules were written, and as all men are not alike constituted, some perceiving the truth more readily when presented in contrast, and some by plain speech, we take the liberty of replying to this query in manner and style as follows:—

1st. The bible is a dead letter to those who belong to an inflexible church, that interprets or withholds it as expediency or policy may dictate.

2nd. It is a dead letter to all who consider that ecclesiastical ministers and bishops may have sufficient faith, knowledge, and holiness for themselves and all who confide in them.

3rd. It is a dead letter to every one who is waiting at some theological Siloam until some undefinable spirit from the world of spirits enlighten his own spirit.

4th. It is a dead letter to all theorists who may be acquainted with its doctrines but who never acknowledge the divinity and excellency of these doctrines by living unto God.

But, again, 1st. The bible is a living letter to those who are members of that church which is founded upon the "Lord's Anointed," and the ambassadors ordained and commissioned by him.

2nd. It is a living letter to all who read it rationally with a view to receive its testimony. "Seek and you shall find."

3d. It is a living letter to every one who peruses it as a revelation from God, and who considers that its author had both the ability and desire to make it simple.

4th. It is a living letter to every honest man, who, studying its teachings, acquires a knowledge of its doctrines and precepts, and then carefully and conscientiously orders his life accordingly.

CONDUCTOR.

"The bee has its sting and the rose its thorn, and while we rejoice in the influence of the press, we must not forget that whatever has the ability to benefit has equal power to injure; and that the press may be so unwisely managed, and its influence so misdirected that it will displease where it should delight, and wound