

life within them. Spirituality should be the distinctive badge of every Christian, and especially of the ambassadors of Christ. Holiness is indispensable. "A bishop must be blameless." All well and good if he is learned, but he *must* be blameless. All well and good if he is eloquent, but he *must* be blameless. In the Revelation John saw "a star fall from heaven." What next? "And smoke came out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace." And ministers apostatising are stars falling. Smoke comes out of the pit and darkens the heavens in that neighbourhood for many a long year. Pray, my friends, that Christ may preserve His stars in His right hand.

The effect upon them as ministers was to fill them with Divine enthusiasm; or, in the more expressive language of the New Testament, with "fire." The Bible speaks much about this fire. Jeremiah had a message to deliver to the children of Israel; but having been insulted, persecuted, incarcerated, he made up his mind not to open his mouth to them again. "I said I will not make mention of Him, or speak any more in His name." Well, how did he fare? "His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and could not stay." It was hard to speak—it was harder to be silent. It is difficult enough to stand up here and preach; it would be more difficult to sit down there and be mute. The Apostles, under the inspiring influence of the Holy Ghost shed upon them on the day of Pentecost,

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