

The Protestant

AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

"PROVE ALL THINGS: HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."—1 THESS. v. 21.

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vent disappointment, all advertisements should be sent to
the Office before 3 o'clock on Friday.)

THE SYMPATHY OF JESUS.

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be
touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all
points tempted like us, yet without sin."—Heb.
iv. 15.

As oft, with worn and weary feet,
We good earth's rugged valley o'er,
The thought, how comforting and sweet—
Christ trod this weary path before;
Our wants and weaknesses he knows,
From life's first dawning to its close.
Do sickness, toilsomeness, or pain,
Or sorrow in our path appear,
The recollection will remain,
How deeply did he suffer here
His life, how truly and brief—
Filled up with suffering and grief!
If Satan tempt our hearts to stray,
And whisper evil things within,
No did he, in the desert way,
Annul our Lord with thoughts of sin?
When worn, and in a feeble hour,
The tempter came with all his power
Just such as this, our earth he trod,
With every human ill but sin;
And though indeed the very God,
As I am now so he has been.
My God, my Saviour, look on me,
With pity, love and sympathy.

The Rev. John Angell James, of Bir- mingham.

(Continued from our last.)
He developed the liberality, missionary zeal, and
general usefulness of his congregation, in every way
where there was an opening for Christian effort. His
own statement supplies the result of this:—When I
became pastor of my church, more than fifty-three
years ago, the only object of congregational benevolence
and action was the Sunday-school, which was then
conducted in a private house, hired for the purpose.
There was nothing else; literally nothing we set our
hands to. We had not then taken up even the Mis-
sionary Society. We have now an organization for the
London Missionary Society, which raises as its regular
contribution, nearly £500 per annum, besides occa-
sional donations to meet special appeals, which, upon
an average, may amount to another £100 a year. For
the Colonial Missionary Society, we raise annually
£70. For our Sunday and day schools, which com-
prehend nearly 2000 children, we raise £200. Our ladies
conduct a working Society for Orphan Mission Schools
in the East Indies, the proceeds of which, for the pur-
chase of tracts, our Village Preachers' Society, which
raises for the poor of our town; a Maternal Society,
of many branches, in various localities; and a Female
Benevolent Society for Visiting the Sick Poor. We
have a Religious Tract Society, which employs ninety
distributors, and spends £50 nearly a year in the pur-
chase of tracts. Our Village Preachers' Society,
which employs twelve or fourteen lay-agents, costs us
scarcely anything. We have £200 annually for the
County Association. We have a Young Men's Brotherly
Society, for general and religious improvement, with
a library of 2000 volumes. We have also night-
schools for young men and women, at small cost, and
Bible-classes for other young men and women. In
addition to all this, we raise £100 per annum for
Spring Hill College. We have laid out £23,000 in
improving the old chapel and building the new one;
in the erection of a new school, the college, and in
building seven country and town small chapels. We
have also formed two separate Independent churches,
and have, jointly with another congregation, formed a
third, and all but set up a fourth; and are at this
time in treaty for two pieces of freehold land, which
will cost £700, to build two more chapels in the
suburbs of the town.
During that period of fifty-three years, how many
souls have been brought to God! The great day will
declare the result of an earnest ministry, carried
on successfully during half a century. For many
years there have been upwards of a thousand members
in this one church.
Mr. James early devoted himself to authorship, and
all his works are full of evangelical truth, pressed
home to the conscience with fervour and point.
They are his ministry applied to the press, and by
which he, "being dead yet speaketh." "The Anxi-
ous Inquirer" alone will carry his name to latest
posterity. It was published in 1824, and has already
had a circulation of upwards of half a million copies
in the English language, and it has been translated
into Welsh, German, Italian, and French. Very many
souls have found the way to Christ by its blessed pages.
His "Pastoral Address," originally intended for his
congregation, has been circulated to the extent of a
million copies. His "Young Man from Home," a
most admirable book to put into the hand of a youth
as he leaves for business, has already reached 68,000
persons, each of whom may have given several others
a pearl. For young women, too, he prepared an ad-
mirable "Guide," and "Parents, Teachers, Church Mem-
bers, and Ministers, have each received his counsel in
a book. He has comforted the Widow by a reasonable
"Faith, Hope, and Charity," in separate volumes.
Sermons and tracts have frequently issued from his
pen, and he has translated a large portion of the
Church in this land and in America. Collected vol-
umes of these are being issued since his decease.
For six years before his death, Mr. James had a
colleague in his ministry, with whom he continued to

labour both in counsel and in preaching, with great
happiness and power. In 1855, he reached his jubilee,
when he received the congratulations of his congregation
and the Christian people of the country. All
denominations had an interest in him. He was one of
the early friends of the Evangelical Alliance, and
breathed much of its spirit. Hence he was beloved by
all. In 1859, he felt his strength failing, and he
bade farewell to most of the associations with which
he had been connected. In the autumn of the year he
was poor; but rallied so much, that on the Sab-
bath morning before his death he preached at Edgemoor
chapel, and in the evening worshipped at Carr's
lane. He had prepared a sermon for his people for
the succeeding Sunday. On the Friday evening, how-
ever, after correcting for the press his review of the
life and labours of the Rev. Richard Knill, he felt
indisposed, and was aided to bed by his medical ad-
viser, Dr. Evans. His night was restless, by reason of
his coughing; but his sleepless hours were happy by
his holy meditation and repetition of favourite passages
of Scripture and of hymns. As the morning of the
Sunday dawned, his spirit fled, and he was ushered
into the immediate presence of the Saviour, whom he
loved so much and served so long. When the tidings
spread, Birmingham was in tears, and the whole
Christian community mourned. All nations who
paid him honour as they bore him to the grave, under
the pulpit he has occupied for so many years; and in
one of the parish churches, the Rev. Dr. Miller
preached his funeral sermon. In this discourse there
is the remark: "John Angell James belonged, not to
Carr's Lane, nor to Birmingham, but to the Church of
Christ."
John Angell James is a bright example to the
Christian ministry, and no less so to the Christian
people. His piety, so decided, so devoted, so hal-
lowing, so progressive, commends him as an illustration
of the beauty of holiness, and the blessedness of
entire consecration to the Lord Jesus. Let the reader
earnestly cultivate the same attainments in sanctifica-
tion. "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord."
His impartiality was great. "He was never known to
enter the pulpit one minute too late, or to commence
divine service one moment before the appointed time."
All other duties were done orderly, and hence much
was crowded into each week. He worked regularly
and he worked long. His industry was constant, and
it was productive. Besides his regular duties in his
pulpit and pastorate, he preached many public sermons,
and travelled much in the cause of God. He sat in
councils of his brethren, and sent to the press as many
as twenty volumes. His liberality was large. Blessed
somewhat early with considerable property, he used
his wealth for the glory of God. Even his good cir-
cumstances and carriage contributed not a little to
assist men of business, in a town where so many
covet and eagerly pursue success. Once brought under
his earnest ministry, not a few became the recipients
of grace, and liberal supporters of the cause of God.
On many occasions Mr. James gave very largely of
his substance. When £500 were presented to him, he
added £500 more, and gave the whole to a benevolent
fund for aged and infirm ministers. His missionary
spirit grew more intense as he advanced in grace and
years. And one of his last appeals and benefactions
was for China.
His zeal for saving souls pervaded all his works,
and his usefulness was extensive. "In some humble
degree," he wrote to the Rev. C. M. Birrell, of Liver-
pool, with the last effort of his pen, "I have aimed at
usefulness, both in my preaching and writing, and I
trust to an amount which utterly astonishes and almost
overwhelms me, given me what I sought. It seems
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