

## CHRISTIAN HERALD.

EDITORS:

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## The Outlook.

Primitive Christianity has a bright future. There is a general awakening upon the subjects held in controversy by religionists for so many years. The sandy foundations of the *ipse dixit* of church worthies are being washed away and men are learning the only true foundation, the word of God. Fossilized forms of religious expression are giving place to Bible names, Bible thoughts and Bible themes.

As an instance of this, note the change of position by many in late years regarding the necessary qualifications for admission into the church. Fossilized religion had piled up question after question, many of which would require a metaphysician to answer understandingly, and some of which no sane man would answer according to the prescribed formula. Now, faith in Christ, leading the person to a reformation of life fits them for the initiative rite of baptism. True it is many who are still joined to their idols laugh at the "emptiness," as they would style it, of what constitutes the underlying basis of all holy living,—an acknowledgement of the Savior and his claims upon mankind.

Other instances could be cited without number to show the radical change of thought and action in Christianity. The cause is deep-seated and the influence exerted is silently yet powerfully being felt among men. And this monument is wide-spread. It is not confined to our own country. In Catholic countries, in heathen lands and in the isles of the sea the same causes are moving mightily to the pulling down of these strongholds of division among the people of God. Now is the time, however, for renewed diligence. While men are thinking, while the world is moving in the right direction, let not lethargy and indifference on the part of those who aforetime have been faithfully pleading for the truth, hinder or discourage the zeal of the thousands who would embrace the simple faith of Jesus.

There is no place where weeds do not grow, and there are no hearts where errors are not to be found.

## The Old Story.

The old Gospel story does not grow old to those who want to live beyond this life. Those who seek a better country love to hear of Jesus and his wondrous love. Strange how this old story of the cross is listened to over and over again. Who becomes weary of it and wants to turn away from such a Savior? Only those who tire of sunshine, truth and righteousness. There are those in almost every community who have no interest in the Gospel of Christ, who are unwilling to do what is right. Such will not, cannot follow the Savior, and they care nothing for the Gospel of Christ. They are in love with the world, its pomp, its greatness and wealth, and cannot be in love with Christ.

We are often made to wonder why there are those in Gospel communities who turn away from the Christ and follow in the way of ruin and death! What has the meek and lowly Christ done to turn them away from light, sunshine, joy and gladness? He came into this world and gave himself a ransom for them. He died that they might live, and yet they reject his love and turn away from him into outer darkness. But we often see men running counter to their own interests and happiness in this life. They do that which is degrading and often ruinous to them. Seemingly they prefer darkness to light, misery to happiness and death to life. What can it mean? The devil has control of them, and leads them on to ruin.

The simple Gospel of Christ is not known by all church members. Some are yet ignorant of this power of God. Some persons have never learned to preach the pure, simple Gospel of Christ, the old story of the cross. They have no clear conception of the first principles of the Gospel. They know how to sermonize, but do not know how to preach the Gospel. They can, and do, say many good things, many witty entertaining things, but there is a great difference between these things and the Gospel of Christ. Their eyes have never been opened to the beauty and power of the Gospel of Christ. They want to appear well before the people, and please those who hear them preach. They view preaching from the common stand-point of a pleasant entertainment. O, that men could understand that they are the servants of God, and that His word is

a power for good when it is presented in faith and humility. They study more about *how* they are to appear than *what* they are to preach. They may succeed in gathering many persons into the churches where they labor, but they cannot bring them into the body of Christ by such a means. The Gospel is the power of God to save sinners, and when this power, in which is the wisdom of God also, is not used, sinners cannot be saved. Preachers may be ever so honest, ever so intelligent and ever so energetic, but if they use not the power God has given them how can they do God's work? They neglect to use the means God has ordained for the salvation of the world, and their preaching is in vain. No man can come to Christ unless he learns of God and trusts the Savior.

Preachers preach too many things out of the Bible and not enough in it. They present too much law and philosophy and too little Gospel. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. He was willing to declare the whole counsel of God to a dying world. When a preacher becomes ashamed of the simple Gospel of Christ he ought to cease his pulpit ministrations and enter some other work. The old Gospel, the pure Gospel of Christ is the only hope of the world.—*The Christian*.

## Christians Should Cause Men to Respect Them.

BY D. D. TAPPAN.

It was a direction of inspired Paul to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth;" and to Titus, "Let no man despise thee." He did not say, let no man *hate* thee." A thorough, manly, outspoken Christian, though as lovable as John, whom Jesus loved, scripture and facts teach us, will not escape hatred. A timid disciple who never denounces rum-selling, fraud, oppression, gambling in all its branches, and things of the kind, may sail rather smoothly through life, and when he dies, it may be said of him that he never had an enemy. A doubtful compliment! This could not have been truly said of Paul, nor of John himself; no, nor of the Lord Jesus. It is not well to make enemies by a pugnacious way of saying things, or by any kind or degree, of unmanliness; but it is certain that he who openly and faithfully sets himself against man's darling sins, will not be uni-

versally loved. But, as to being despised, that is another thing. If we are, in a good degree and in general, what we should be, and without any prominent folly or vice, we shall not be likely to be despised by any whose respect is of much account. How could Timothy and Titus escape being despised? *By living so that none could despise them.* This inspired teaching, though it may be primarily applicable to ministers, applies scarcely less to all Christians. They should not permit men to despise them. But, how prevent it? By a right character and a wise and consistent mode of life.

1. They must be *thoroughly* religious: not half-way Christians; not merely church members, seldom or never recognized as such, except as seen at the communion table. Sensible, worldly men are not, usually, impressed so much in favor of religion by loud professions in the prayer meeting, or remarkable experiences, perhaps ostentatiously and repetitiously recited, as by a known consistently religious life out of the prayer-meeting, and during the six secular days of the week. A dishonest, sordid, neglectful professor may, easily enough, be despised by wise men and by fools. We must be what we profess to be, in a reasonable degree.

2. *Common sense* is also needful, in order to ward off contempt. If we are really religious, but pay no attention to the fitness of things; if we grossly offend against innocent usages of society; if we are busy-bodies and gossips, bolting in upon cultured families at unreasonable hours, or on days understood to be specially busy days, and when company is undesirable, if we are unconsciously hangers on, even on the point of going, and yet spinning out our fatiguing stay; if we are apt to argue with an irascible or drunken man; if we readily get into disputes, political or religious, in stores or shops, with a scoffing crew around; if we are wont to interrupt and hinder men of business, amidst their pressing affairs in business hours; if we expect men of sense to accept our unproved assertions, it is not easy to perceive how we can thus secure the respect of the discerning and really candid men of the world.

In the choice of an occupation, in our style of doing business, in our practical estimate of ourselves and of mankind, there is room for the exercise that is profitable to secure