

Scriptures. If this simple story of the cross is believed with the heart and lived out in the life, it is the power of God unto salvation. Hence let all preach this Gospel, that many may be saved by it.

Infallibility.

According to the Roman Catholic idea of infallibility, judging from what they do rather than from what they say, the Pope is the only infallible being in the universe, not excepting even the God himself. For it is a fact admitted by every well informed Catholic that the Church with the Pope at its head has knowingly and willfully changed some of the most positive ordinances of Jesus Christ, and are hence practicing that which they admit the Savior has never commanded. The Church has substituted sprinkling for immersion, and allowed infants to be sprinkled, neither of which is authorized by the word of God.

Now, this presumption on the part of the Catholic Church must mean one of two things, viz: either that Jesus Christ, in giving his positive commandments, did not know what was best adapted to the human race throughout all subsequent time, and hence made a mistake in ordaining immersion and adult church membership alone, or that he understood these things full well, but willfully commanded that which he knew would not meet the approbation of his infallible successor and Vicar (?) the Pope of Rome. In the first case, his infinite knowledge is impeached, in the second, his goodness is questioned, and in either case his infallibility is set aside. If Christ was not infallible, then God is not infallible, for Christ was God manifested in the flesh. Hence, there is nothing infallible except the Pope of Rome!

But in the light of the Scriptures and the true definition of infallibility, there is nothing farther from the truth. To talk about the infallibility of the Pope is not only to attribute to a mere man the attributes that belong to the Infinite God of Heaven, but it is the grossest dishonor to Him and a species of blasphemy against Him. And to talk about an infallible Church is but little better. The Bible teaches us that no man is free from sin, not even the Pope, and how a Church composed of such men and women can be absolutely free from sin and possess infallibility is a

question we leave to be solved by those who hold the doctrine. To us nothing is more absurd than the whole claim of the Church of Rome to infallibility.

Selections and Comments.

RESPECT OF PERSONS.—The following item of news is taken from the *Morning Oregonian*, a paper published in Portland;

Last night at the First Congregational church was witnessed for the first time in this city the auctioning of seats in church to the highest bidder. At a recent meeting of the board of trustees, a plan was devised for meeting next year's expenses. Pews were divided into three classes, a certain number at \$100, others at \$75, and still others at \$50 per annum, and the privilege of choice in these classes was extended to those who would pay for it. There was a fair attendance, about one third of the audience being ladies. H. H. Northup acted as auctioneer and explained the plan adopted by the trustees. The first to bid for choice of the \$100 pews was Jos. A. Strowbridge, who offered \$10; Jas. Steel bid \$20; Mr Strowbridge \$30, and J. C. Carson bid \$35. He secured the first choice.

Following this is a long list of the names of those who were so fortunate as to be able to buy a seat in the house of the Lord (?). Now Bro. James, what do you think of such a system of things in the assembly of the saints? James: "My brethren, have not the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons? For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiments; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, sit thou here in a good place, and say to the poor, stand thou there, or sit here under my foot stool, are ye not then partial in yourselves, and become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heir of the kingdom, which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by which ye are called? If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well. But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."

GREAT CALAMITY IN KINGSTON.—There has recently been a terrible fire in Kingston, Jamaica, which has caused much distress among the

people and involving a loss of perhaps \$15,000,000. It will be remembered that this is the field of labor of Bro. W. R. Azbill, our late missionary, who is doing such a grand work for us in this city and island. The following is a letter written to the *Christian Standard* by Sister Azbill, which fully explains itself:

KINGSTON, Dec. 14, 1882.

DEAR BRO. ERRETT:—A great and unprecedented calamity has befallen the citizens of Kingston. On last Monday, about 2 P. M., a fire broke out in the business part of the city, and the principal stores and business houses are in ashes. If the houses of the poor alone had been destroyed, the loss might have been borne, if not repaired, without calling on the people of other countries, or even other parts of the island. But those who a few days ago were most able to help in such emergencies are now helpless, and some of them homeless.

Hundreds are without shelter. Hundreds are only temporarily provided for by their friends, by charitable individuals, and by the Relief Committees.

We send you herewith the meager accounts the newspapers have been able so far to publish. There is no time to enter into details, and no language could describe the situation were there time to try.

The case of one of our members is especially pitiable. Her husband being very ill, had taken lodgings in the suburbs of the city, and she had been for some time carrying on their business. The day of the fire, the husband, who was a brother, and one of our best men, died. Their business place was destroyed utterly, and she is left widowed, homeless and destitute all at once. This is but one of the many tales of loss and sorrow that might be told.

You are earnestly requested by the Relief Committee to do all you can to secure help. Mr. Azbill has requested me to write you and say that, as he was already Sec'y of the Charity Organization, and is now Sec'y of the Relief Committee, any aid intended for our brethren especially, should be sent to him, but it should be particularly stated that it is intended for our brethren.

We are thankful to be able to say that we are all well, and that we have suffered no loss in this great calamity, except that we suffer with those that suffer. A number of our members are left without anything in the world. Many hundreds are sitting on the roadside watching what little they saved. One woman said to me, "Oh, if I only had a shelter for my family!"

But this little information must suffice for the present. In great haste,
Anne Azbill.

RAISING MONEY FOR CHURCH PURPOSES.—The *Christian-Evangelist* gives us a good lesson in the following paragraph, on how to raise money for church purposes:

An esteemed correspondent wishes to know the mind of "Pen and Scissors" on the propriety of raising money for church purposes by oyster suppers, festivals, etc. The "Pen" assumes the responsibility of answering briefly, but unequivocally. We believe such methods of raising money for church purposes calculated to repress and injure the spirit of Christian giving, and to bring the Church of Christ into dishonor, and hence ought to be discouraged by all who would cultivate the grace of Christian liberality, and guard the honor and purity of the church. If the churches want sociables let them have them, by all means. But when

money is to be raised for Christ's cause, there is no way equal to the old-fashioned, direct way of putting the hand into the pocket and laying it on the altar of Christianity for Christ's sake. Then we can claim the blessing promised to the liberal and cheerful giver.

We should follow the teaching of the Scriptures in the matter of giving and receiving, for church and missionary work, as well as in all other important duties.

"WHICH CHURCH SHALL WE JOIN."—Under this heading we find an article in the Texas Department of the *Old Path Guide* from which we clip this paragraph from the introductory remarks:

In this age, men who desire to become Christians meet many difficulties unknown in apostolic times. One of the greatest of these is the trouble of deciding which church to join. This difficulty grows out of the great number of churches now in existence. It was not known in the days of Paul, because there was but the one church for men to join. We do not read in the New Testament of men puzzling their heads to determine which church they should join, because in those days there was but one church they could join. Preachers in the early days of the church never were called upon to show which of many churches is the right one, because the idea of many churches did not then prevail among men. But now there are so many churches in the land, sinners are puzzled no little to know which flock to herd with in case they attempt to live according to the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.

LETTER FROM INDIA.—The following letter from one of our eight missionaries who recently sailed for India may be of interest to some:

BOMBAY, Nov. 9, 1882.

DEAR BRO.—After a somewhat tedious voyage of twenty nine days from Liverpool, we arrived here two days ago, having been on the water forty days since we left New York harbor.

We give thanks to God that through all the dangers of this long journey of more than 10,000 miles, amidst the numerous perils of the mighty deep, we have been brought in safety, with the general health of our entire party much better than when we left home.

Before our destination is reached we have 450 miles yet to travel, thirty of which will be by carts and wagons, there being no railway.

Through the kindness of Bro. Sibley, at Eilchpur, we have a bungalow rented already for us at that place, and Bro. Norton and wife, and two of the ladies will go on there about Monday, while the rest of us remain here a few days longer.

When we are located we will give you the particulars.

With much love to all, I remain,
Your fellow-laborer,
G. L. WHARTON.

When Christ sends a man into his vineyard to labor he does not expect him to lie down under the shade of the vines and wait for his fellow laborer to do all the work. But he expects each one to do his part whether great or small. If this principle were carried out in the churches of Christ greater good would be done for his cause.