

*Original Contributions.***Our Inconsistencies.**

BY F. M. BAINS.

It is a lamentable fact, and one that should lead every Christian to humble himself before God that the best of us by our weaknesses, foibles, and inconsistencies afford the world too many occasions for stumbling. Many date their first impressions against the cause of Christ from having observed the professed followers of Christ walking not in harmony with his gospel. And we all judge an institution by its professed votaries. We estimate Masonry by the lives of its members. It is often asked why our churches do not prosper; and it may as often be answered: *They are inconsistent.* Churches are inconsistent—when,

1. They expect their preacher to meet promptly all his financial obligations, and yet, they do not pay him what they have agreed to pay. I know some churches guilty of this sin.

2. When they employ cheap preachers. Some things are dear at any price, and this is true of a cheap preacher. This is always true when he is simply engaged because he is cheap, and when he accepts simply for the sake of a "place."

3. When they spend much money for costly church building because their religious neighbors do. We should have attractive and comfortable church buildings for their real worth to the cause of Christ, and for this reason only. A church is inconsistent when it has a dingy, dirty, and pig-pen of a place in which to meet; or when it has an elegant building, with a mortgage or debt hanging over it; and when it has a flashing temple to be like others. Let the churches study Paul's language when he says, "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in *simplicity* and *godly sincerity* (not in worldly show), not with fleshly wisdom (opposite to spirit), but by the grace of God we have had our conversation (manner of living) in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward." 2 Cor. 1: 12.

4. When they give much attention to life in the church and little attention to spiritual life. Your church life necessarily implies spiritual life, but this is not considered by some churches when they speak of life in the church. A large and fashionable congregation with much

talk and show constitutes life in the church with them. This is an erroneous conception of church work and is sure to lead to dangerous and hurtful results. The poor are neglected and the rich are attracted. The last class profess to embrace Christ and his teaching. They came in while the train is moving and have not considered what it takes to keep it in motion; and when they come to an up grade it is not what they expected, and they are disappointed and instead of being servicable to the church they are burdens for the church to carry. The churches should seek to make the world realize the turpitude of sin, and to make a full surrender to the authority of Christ. There must be a genuine spiritual life—a life freed from sin and unreservedly consecrated to Christ and his cause. Nothing short of this is true church work and without we can not be consistent.

5. When they do not take religious papers, and when they spend more money for tobacco than for missionary purposes, when there is trouble among brethren in the church—envyings, strife, and hatred, when you send your children to Catholic school, when children are taught to appear well in society, and little attention given to make them efficient in the church. But you say these are little things. Be it so. But remember it is the aggregation of little things that constitutes the telling sum and influence in every thing. The cost of a postal card is only one cent, and yet the whole amount sold in one year runs up into millions, giving the government thousands of dollars. One grain of wheat is not much, but when the whole Mississippi valley empties its apron of wheat in our markets it makes a very neat little sum. In the Christian life one act does not appear to amount to much, but when that is multiplied by ten in one day, the aggregate in a few years is telling for good.

And just as the usefulness of a Christian life grows out of little deeds well done, so the influence of many a Christian is sadly marred by little sins—little indiscretions, little meannesses, and little jealousy and spite.

It is said that a keeper of a lighthouse off the coast of Florida accidentally broke a pane of glass while lighting his lamps for the night. It was too late for him to repair it, and as the wind was blowing strongly, he fitted a strip of tin into the sash to prevent the light from

being extinguished. The lamps sent their cheering rays far out into the sea save where the piece of tin threw a dark shadow, widening as it fell upon the distant waters till it covered many a mile. Vessels passing that way during the night saw no light where one ought to have been and some were wrecked upon the rocks and precious lives were lost because while the lamp was burning brightly it did not shine where it should. So our faults cast shadows and many remain in the darkness for not having seen the light which should emanate from our lives. "Let your light so shine," says Jesus, "before men that others seeing your good work may glorify your Father who is in heaven." We believe great things and to be consistent we must do great things.

We who are engaged in the restoration of primitive Christianity will be inconsistent,

1. When we fail to declare all the counsel of God. "Wherefore I take you to record this day," says Paul, "that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Acts. 20: 26, 27. We must boldly and positively speak all that God has commanded.

We can not be guiltless without so doing. To fail here is to be guilty of the blood of our fellows. We have promised God and the world that we would faithfully preach the word. Will we be true to our obligation? I believe we will. Thousands of faithful men have given themselves to this noble work.

2. When we add to the word of the Lord. The simplicity of conversions for which we have contended has been a tower of strength to us. The simple scriptural church government and congregational worship, the world can easily understand, and will readily appreciate and respect if we will continue loyal to Jesus and be consistent in our teaching and practice. Consistency is a jewel in everything in general and in Christianity in particular.

Leavenworth, Ks.

**The Gospel Adapted to Man as it Finds Him.**

D. M. DOTY.

He who will stop and, for a moment, investigate for himself, may see, in the spiritual, as in the material universe of God, a beautiful system of harmony and adaptability. When we look at our own beautiful America, with her varied

climate, soil and productions, from Main to California, and from our own loved Oregon to the sunny land of Florida, with our fifty millions of people, where each one may find a congenial home, where climate, soil and productions may best suit their convenience and happiness. So in other lands and climes we find the means adapted to the ends. When we look at the spiritual universe we find there beautiful system and adaptation. We find in the first, or Patriarchial Dispensation, a system of worship just adapted to the primeval state of the race; the head of the family (or tribe) was the high priest. As families and nations are multiplied, we find in the second, or Jewish Dispensation, a system of worship best adapted to them, as a nation; a system that was calculated to give them higher aspirations and grander ideas of the one true and living God. Paul, in speaking to his Jewish brethren, said of the law given by Moses, that it was a "school master to bring us to Christ." Gal. 3: 24. So we find in this a national religion with a high priest to officiate for them in things pertaining to God, with a code of laws to govern them as a nation, elect and chosen by him, as types and shadows of a more exalted kingdom and priesthood. This brings us to the third, or Gospel Dispensation. God said to Abraham, "In thy seed (Christ) shall all nations of the earth be blest." We hear Jesus saying to the woman of Samaria: "The hour has come when the true worshipers shall worship in spirit and in truth." John 4: 23. No more Jewish altars from which was to ascend offerings for the people through a national high priest, but the worship should become individual, and to all nations, each one worshipping the true and living God in spirit and in truth. The good Father, in giving the world a system of individual worship, or religion, has appointed Jesus, his only begotten Son, our Great High Priest and King. Before he ascended to the Father, we hear him saying to his chosen apostles: "All power in heaven and in earth is in my hands, go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature, he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved." Mark 16: 15, 16. We find in this Gospel a beautiful adaptation to each individual as it finds him. We are taught in the Holy Writ that without faith it is impossible to please