

FREE PRESS;

AND GENERAL RECORD, OR, SUCCESSIVE REVIEW:

OR, THE JOURNAL OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.



SHOWING THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND OBJECTS OF THE GREAT COMMUNITY, AND EXPLAINING THE DOCTRINES AND PRINCIPLES AS OBSERVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF THE GREAT ORGANIZATION.

A NEWSPAPER ISSUED FORTNIGHTLY,

WHICH WILL CONTAIN SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL FACTS, AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION.

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THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MEDIUM OF THE NOTTINGHAM SPIRITUAL CIRCLE.

(Continued from our last.)

Having in our last explained a portion of my experience as a medium, before going any further, I must take back the attention of the reader to other portions of my experience connected therewith. During the period of my early seership, amidst my studies of the different works on the mystic sciences which by perseverance I brought under my notice, I observed in them, especially those of Barrat and Agrippa, that the art of magic was treated upon, with directions how to work it; and, as it is designated the black art, I resolved if possible to penetrate its mysteries, and prove for myself whether what was stated was right or wrong. Many marvellous things are represented, such as raising spirits and communicating with them by the means of the magic circle, a description of which, with how to make it, is contained in the works named. Not only are the mysteries of this circle darkly explained, but other works of magic are likewise described, such as working spells for lovers, or on enemies to injure them, either by casting wax images, and burning perfumes, with conjurations and other mysterious and unintelligible directions, such as detecting thieves, recovering stolen property and a variety of other important knowledge, if really true; but they are so written that unless some foreknowledge, connected with the duplicity of the workers of this vile practice is known, it is impossible to learn anything by reading the works; but I being acquainted with a man who professed a perfect understanding of the magical art, had an opportunity, with his instructions and the works I possessed, to investigate the subject; and having no other motives but to test the truth of what I read and heard, I determined to investigate as much as possible, but found nothing could be done from the written directions without experience, and the written directions gave the insight, and the experience proved the rest. And thus it was that the circle and its mysteries were unravelled, and I proved that spirits could be so conjured to appear, but that nothing truthful, definite, or good, could result from such practice; and wherever injury is attempted on others, such injuries fall on those who practice such evil workings; while the detection of thieves, and recovery of stolen goods, and all such like practices, if accomplished at all, is done by the craft and duplicity of the pretended magician, who, after possessing a knowledge of what is required, takes bold steps either in accusations or insinuations as to the guilt of the parties, who, being aware of the power the purported magician possesses, and knowing that he has been applied to, they become conscience stricken, and through fright or fear, either confess their guilt, and return the property, or in some cases they do both, and the magician goes off with the credit of his being able to work magical spells. This I say from experience, having passed through the whole school or ordeal of delusion and falsehood, and have denounced the same in public in my work entitled the "Warning Message." And this is why aerial spiritualists and pretended magic-workers oppose, ridicule, and endeavour to injure both myself and character; but I heed them not, and fearlessly tell all those professed knowing ones who communicate with aerial spirits of any class or grade, or who profess to believe in and to work magic, that they after experience are all aware that their practice is delusive, and that their communications from spirits are generally false, and that their professions in magic are all impositions for the sake of extracting money from the unwary and credulous be-

lievers in their professed power, many of whom are even now in existence in this town, practising and propagating the greatest falsehoods and delusions knowingly to themselves, and to the detriment of their fellow creatures, who are blindfolded by the duplicity of the crafty, who the more readily obtain the money from the bigotted, self-willed and credulous supporters of error.

Such was my experience up to 1853, and which I have since publicly denounced, and shall continue to denounce, regardless of what may be said or done by those who delight in deluding and defrauding their neighbours. Therefore, with this outline of what aerial spirits will do and say, and what a portion of mankind is capable of doing in the shape of villany and delusion, I shall now continue my experience, after having the celestial science revealed unto me. I have already stated that prior to October, 1853, many revelations were given to me in presence of others, shewing that the scriptures were corrupt, and that every sect and denomination founded upon such corruption was an abomination to God, and must be overthrown, and that the Universal Church of Christ should be reared upon the ruins of tyranny, oppression, hypocrisy, priestcraft and delusion, through the corruption of the scriptures, and that divine revelation would ultimately proclaim this to the world. And after the revelations on the Russian war were given in 1853, as before mentioned, we received instructions that the Circle should ultimately consist of twelve, with their medium, and that they were ordained to establish a new era in the morals of man by proclaiming the truths of divine revelation, denouncing the corruption of the scriptures, and exposing oppression, hypocrisy, priestcraft, and delusion, on the ruins of which the Universal Church of Christ was to be established. But being pestered with old and experienced aerial crystal workers, who persuaded me that the revelations we were receiving were delusive, and they, the revelations, representing such great things to be brought about by such men, who were comparatively unlearned and living in obscurity. I could not believe the revelations given, but considered them delusive, having experienced falsehoods before; and though there are many persons residing in this town who even now are knowingly practising this delusion, and setting it forth as truth, yet having frequently experienced its delusion. They still continue to try to injure me and our cause because I denounce their imposition, and can prove them false and deceptive, whatever they may say to the contrary. Through them, as I before said, and the delusion I had experienced from aerial spirits of every grade, I dare not believe in the divine celestial revelations I was then receiving, in consequence of the great end it portrayed, and confess that I never should have believed only from the compulsion of fulfilment of facts, which it was impossible to doubt.

From 1853 to November 1854, many startling revelations were given; amongst others, the death of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, with the period thereof, was foretold and fulfilled, as shewn in the second series on the war. Much other startling information was given, but through doubts, unbelief and a desire for gain, the revelations were doubted and disbelieved, and the Circle broken up, and every one suffered pecuniary difficulties of the worst character, with ill health and privation. In the latter end of November, 1854, I again experienced the truths of divine revelation contrary to expectation. Having with the Circle previously published a portion of my life, which was stopped publishing for want of funds, as described in the "Warning Message," where my experience in the fulfilment of revelation is also described, and from that

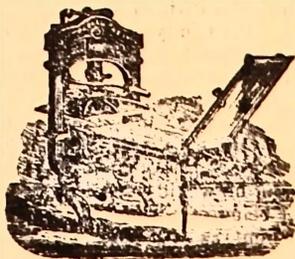
period I resolved under any circumstances to act by its directions, and on seeing other members of the Circle they promised to do the same, but neglected their promises and divine revelation, and suffered materially for their disobedience. In the month of December, 1854, the first series on the war was written from my dictation, and revelations were given to shew that no advantage in pecuniary affairs must be expected from publishing it, but that they were ordained by heaven to go forth to the world, and means should be directed from unknown and unexpected sources to bring them forth. Many important revelations were given between that period and June 1855, during which much craft and duplicity was practised by some members of the Circle in raising money for its publication, which, however, they, in defiance of revelation, devoted to their own use. Two gentlemen had promised assistance, one in Nottingham and the other in Leeds, to publish the first series, if any other assistance could be found, and in June 1855, whilst then living in Walker street, Sneinton, Nottingham, as the published address will prove, the person I then lived with as an inmate having seen the copy of the first series, introduced it to a visiting friend, who, on reading it, said it was a pity it should lie idle, and he would do his share towards getting it out, and he had no doubt but that he could get others to assist. Accordingly, in a few days from that period, I had sufficient money in hand chiefly from strangers, to bring out the first series. But before sending it to press, we discovered that there was no name or address to it; and not having full faith, and drawing a small pittance from the government, and knowing that the first series condemned all the present government systems, I felt a delicacy in putting my name to it, and yet did not like to send it forth without a name; but having proved the truth of revelation before, I was induced to ask a question upon the subject, and accordingly inquired as to whether it was necessary that my name and address should go forth with that work, or whether any evil to me would result therefrom, and the answer, which I now possess, and which was revealed in June 1855, was thus:—"It is not only necessary that your name, but that your address should go forth with this work; and, instead of evil many advantageous communications will be the result. Relying on this revelation, I sent the work forth with my name and address, and immediately after got out the second series; after which I received several communications which damped my hopes and made my faith sink, as the correspondence I received stated that any revelations in these days were from devils or evil spirits, and that those who professed to receive them were diabolical and wicked blasphemers; so I saw no prospects of any advantageous communications. I accordingly, with the consultation of others, enquired how I could convince the people that the revelations were not from Satanic agency, and to my surprise I received revelation commanding me to publish the instructions as contained in the "Book of Knowledge," at a price within the reach of all, as before shewn. But before giving an account of the publication of this little work, I must first describe the miraculous manner by which it was preserved. Having occasion, though blind, to go to Birmingham on special business, and the person with whom I was then living, as described in the history of my life, being utterly opposed to all my professions and dealings, yet I was forced to leave my books and writings in her possession, but I, having a square book containing many revelations on public and private matters, and the "Book of Knowledge" being written on bath post paper the same size, it was slipped into this square book, and a man

who was then a member of the Circle, and who wished to copy some of the revelations from the book, borrowed it till I returned from Birmingham; and with the instructions for the "Book of Knowledge" in it, I being then blind, and not knowing to it, gave him the book, and during my absence in Birmingham, all the papers I left in the house were destroyed and burnt, and I anticipated the "Book of Knowledge" was burnt with them; but a few days after my return, the man brought the book in question, and to my delight and surprise, the manuscript of the "Book of Knowledge" was safe, and this I considered a miraculous preservation. After the publication of the second series a gentleman in St. John's Wood, in London, wrote to me and sent me assistance, promising to assist my efforts in spreading truth; and on receiving the instructions to publish the "Book of Knowledge," I sent a written prospectus to him, and, in reply, he sent me word that it would do me more good to sell the copyright than to publish it; and as he was an astrologer and believer in the crystal and the mystic sciences, he offered me a liberal price for the copyright to take it to himself, but I sent him word what revelations had commanded me to do respecting it, and that I should act accordingly, but would thank him for any assistance that he thought well to give. But, in an abrupt reply, he informed me that he had no intention or desire to make the public acquainted with the hidden secrets of crystal seeing, and as I would not take his offer, he would advise me to pitch such spirits who counselled me against my own interests, together with the crystal and all, to the Devil, for he would have nothing more to do with it, and advised me to do the same. I wrote a sharp reply to this professed christian gentleman, but our correspondence ceased from that time with the exception of an occasional letter. Shortly after this, a lady, who is now a member of the organization, corresponded with me from Essex, and through her letters and friends, I soon got sufficient to publish the "Book of Knowledge," which was at once sent to London and circulated. In a few days after its issue, it fell into the hands of a gentleman, an attorney of the Queen's Bench, who had already written much on the mystic sciences, as he afterwards told me. This gentleman was acquainted with the editor and proprietor of Zadkiel's almanack, and knowing that he had published much concerning the crystal, which had proved delusive, though his intentions were good, he took the "Book of Knowledge" to him, and he, on reading it, at once saw the truths it set forth, and wrote to me and asked many questions, the answers to which he proved truthful and satisfactory, and both himself, his wife, and the gentleman referred to, contributed handsomely to the cause, so that I was enabled to defray the expenses of bills and advertisements for the works, and to get out the "People's Guide," shewing the corruptions of the Old Testament, at a cost of five guineas, most of which, however, I was indebted to the printer for, having already published the three series on the war, and the "Book of Knowledge," and not getting any money from London under three months from the agent, and the sales being small elsewhere, I felt myself in a fix to pay the printer, as the time was fast passing, and the printer and myself were then strangers. I still, believing in revelation, enquired whether any trouble or inconvenience would result to me through being indebted to the printer, and to my surprise, instead of receiving an answer to this question, the title page of the "Warning Message" was revealed unto me, instructing me that the work must be got out in monthly parts, 32 pages each, demy octavo, and that it must contain in all 320 pages. This staggered

death a man who murders a single individual, and robs him of a purse, and then justify themselves in killing twenty thousand men to rob them of a territory. With due respect, I remain, dear sir, yours, &c.,

T. F. HOLMES,

Brandon, Suffolk.



THE SPIRITUALISTIC

Free Press & General Record

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THE ESSAYS AND REVIEWS, OR THE MOST LEARNED OF OUR ESTABLISHED CHURCH NOW DENOUNCING AND EXPOSING THE ERRORS, ABSURDITIES AND CORRUPTIONS OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Is it not strange that out of the vast number of bishops, deacons, prelates, and clergymen of the Church of England who all profess to be the faithful followers of Christ and ministers of his gospel, taking to themselves the title of right reverend fathers in God,—is it not strange, we say, that out of all this multitude of professed followers of Christ, ministers of the gospel, and teachers of the people, that only seven honest, candid, open-minded, truth-expounding men can be found—and who will come forth and declare to the world that conscience, reason, and justice has shewn to them that the present system upon which religion is founded is injurious, delusive and degrading. We are all convinced that there are hundreds amongst the clergy of the established church whose consciences condemn their pretensions; and assure them that by their teachings they are deluding and deceiving the people; but unlike the seven learned gentlemen, the joint authors of the essays and reviews, the rest of the clergy have neither the honesty, candour or the disinterestedness to proclaim their thoughts to the world—and why?—It is simply because their worldly interest is opposed to truth and justice, and they would sooner sacrifice the future and hold fast their present worldly advantages. For they know they have snug mansions to live in, servants to attend upon them, carriages to ride in, and the splendid edifice, with rich cusheoned pews, pulpits, and decorations, to preach in, a train of official church functionaries to pay homage and reverence to them, and at the back of all these luxuries, there is a handsome salary of several hundred pounds per year; so that idleness, luxury, and affluence can be maintained at leisure. No wonder then that men with such worldly interests at stake, will sacrifice every other just, honest, or candid principle to retain their positions, simply because they know that the very book which condemns their practices, is corrupt and absurd; and let them say what they will to the contrary, we unhesitatingly affirm that they even, with the authors of the essays and reviews, are perfectly aware of the absurd and fabulous mysteries, the corruptions and immoralities which are contained in the bible, and this we are prepared to prove. Hence it

is that the bishops and clergy keep silent, consoling themselves and their followers with a hope that the men who are so exposing the absurdities of the scriptures may soon see their error, and desist from so doing. But this apparent quietness and these peaceful pretensions only brand them with the fact that they themselves would be unable to confute or disprove the essays and reviews, either by argument, history, or theology; and they also know that to stir up the matter would only make the exposure more public, and more greatly investigated and believed. Hence it is they consent amongst themselves to keep silent, knowing that their craft is in danger, and that, by investigation, their positions would become dangerous, and would totter and fall. and these are the causes why the Archbishop of Canterbury and his colleagues decided as they did, merely to select the most objectionable parts, and proceed against them and their writers ecclesiastically, well knowing that, in such a court, justice, truth, reason, or righteousness, would be turned against with a deaf ear, while ruin, poverty contempt and hatred, would assuredly alight upon the parties accused. Therefore, they dare not allow the question to be openly and publicly discussed, so that its merit might be reasonably, justly, and impartially judged upon by the most learned of the day, with the best histories for their guide. If such was the case, the present religion, as founded on the corruptions of the present translated edition of the Old and New Testament, would but little longer have being. We, as spiritualists and members of the Great Organization, all acknowledge and believe that the scriptural histories of the creation, and other events, are fabulous, absurd, and corrupt, and divine revelation commanded us to declare it to the world as far back as 1853, as our works will prove, and when no essays or reviews were thought of, and when neither the infidels nor secularists denounced the scriptures. But though we agree that the scriptures are corrupt and absurd, yet we cannot agree with the belief of the infidels, or of the authors of the essays and reviews. They repudiate that the bible is anything more than a fabulous, groundless, mystical history, never written by inspired men, and never having any divine origin: while christianity, Jesus Christ, and his miracles, with the works of his apostles, the authors reject, with the infidels, as a fictitious and fabulous history. Now these denials and objections we reject, as divine revelation has instructed us, and our experience proves; and the very men who are writing the essays and reviews might prove the same, if they would read, study and investigate; but they have been taught otherwise from their youth, and so they reject the existence of revelation in any age, although its existence can be traced to the earliest ages; but the account of it left is so mystified and misplaced that it cannot be understood. Still, though we reject the absurdities, immoralities, and obscenities which are contained in the scripture with the oppression and contradiction, yet we believe nevertheless that the pure word of God is still traceable in them, as written by inspired men, but they have been

so altered mixed, and misplaced, by crafty, designing, self-interested, and ambitious men, that it is impossible to trace them out fully without divine revelation; for man's opinions and ideas can no longer be trusted, though they may tell you that certain passages of scripture require a spiritual meaning putting upon them; but then it has been tried, and there are no ten, nor even two men, who will put the same spiritual meaning on the same passage, if separately but distantly enquired of; and yet they will all profess to believe the bible alike. Now amidst this confliction of opinions and diversity of ideas, no one knowing for a certainty who is right or who is wrong, how can the question be solved without divine revelation. There is no other way under heaven by which God's divine will can be made known to the people of the earth; and if this ancient and sacred science ever did exist in the early ages, as history proves it did, and, notwithstanding the said mystification, the existence of revelation can be traced downwards throughout all ages to the present, so that man, notwithstanding their craft, duplicity, and their oppressive laws to smother it, have not been able to obliterate or totally extinguish it, or prevent its existence; and this fact in itself proves that revelation is of holy and divine origin; and if this had been allowed to become known generally amongst the people, there would have been no infidels, or no essay writers, for they would have been enabled to prevent ancient history of divine inspiration from being corrupted, and to discover the base inventions of self-interested men; but it was this knowledge which caused the account of the ancient sacred science to be obliterated and preserved in its present form only as a mystery not to be unravelled; but, notwithstanding the care and craft as practised in all ages to stifle and put down revelation in all its forms by men in power, yet it still exists, and in defiance of all opposition, is proclaiming its truths to the world by declaring that the scriptures are corrupt, and that there is not an original copy now in existence, and that the clergy are aware of the corruption, and that they preach doctrines which their own conscience tells them are false and delusive, and divine revelation declares that every sect and denomination which now exists founded on the present corrupt state of the scriptures, are hypocritical delusions and abominations to God, and must be overthrown, and their creeds scattered to the winds, and hypocrisy, priestcraft, delusion, and oppression will no longer exist, but the universal church of Christ shall be reared on the ruins thereof, the doctrines of which, will consist of love, joy, peace, unity, harmony, charity, and affection, with the fear of God in Christ Jesus, and be in charity with all men. Now if the writers of the essays, and reviews, would leave their infidel principles, and early taught bigoted notions, and investigate the truths of divine revelation, they would be enabled to learn what the future will of God to man is, and what is not, and would then be enabled to frame, or form a book by divine revelation, upon which religion, like the universal church, as described above, would be founded; and though we like their fear-

at hand... holds good only for particular generations; the moral law as given to the Jews, is also applicable to the Gentiles, while the prophecies in many instances were limited to the Jews only, for instance, the overthrow of the antediluvians, and the prophecies given for the destruction of Babylon, Nineveh, Jerusalem, &c., were not given for the present generation, while the prophecies relating to the future destruction of the present world, cannot apply to any past generation, and thus, we see that the judgments of God were always preceded by an immediate revelation, and prophetic warnings given to the people who were alive on the earth at the time they took place, a limited time for preparation was also allowed by divine wisdom; and thus we see the necessity of immediate and divine revelation in these days, the overthrow of all worldly rule being close at hand. But as I, or any other man, cannot rely on the present translation of the scriptures, unless we are taught by a present revelation; I shall give the periods of warning according to common acceptance, in even numbers, for the Antediluvians 120 years, Babylonians 100, Ninevites 40 days, Jerusalem about 50 years, and for the present generation 6 years, as the revelation given through the crystal by the Gabriel to the Nottingham Medium, is that the year 1866 is the limited time which a merciful God will allow to pass ere all worldly power and authority is "put down," and the kingdom of Christ fully established on the earth. Now, sir, assuming this last named dispensation to be as true, and quite as much needed as the former ones, and believing it to be so, I am bound to proclaim immediate revelation to be the wisdom of God, imparting those heavenly laws by which alone his church and kingdom should be governed; the true church has always possessed it, and without it no true church can exist. The present, and several past generations have however unhappily existed without its councils, and whatever may be their pretensions to godliness, it will avail them nothing while they refuse the words of God a place in their churches. Immediate revelation, sir, is a trumpet which no hireling or sectarian priest can blow. The learned divines do not understand it, and, of course the people know nothing about it. A man might attend church or chapel twenty years, and never hear such a word mentioned, and yet every true prophet and apostle taught it. They did not draw their instructions from other men's writings or opinions, but proclaimed them with a "Thus saith the Lord;" and this is the identical note of the Nottingham herald. It is the key note to man's destiny, and with which human skill will find it hard to grapple. And, sir, allow me to observe, that as a church void of immediate divine revelation cannot be a christian church, so neither can there be such a thing as a christian state without it. When and where God legislates, he gives to all men liberally; divine wisdom has no respect to persons or classes; and we may unreservedly declare that there is not a state or kingdom in the world at the present time who are ruled by divine legislators, but in opposition to it.

If worldly laws were framed according to the law of God they would need no repealing; but the fact is, that the priesthoods and rulers of the world are all legislating from the traditions of men, and yet they legislate from the bible; while, with all their learning and talents, they are not able to distinguish the truths of the bible from its errors: else, why do they not observe the moral law, as well as the traditional. For instance, the moral law teaches—"thou shalt not kill;" yet christian monarchs and legislators teach their subjects to kill, and the priesthood sanction it; and why,—because it is sanctioned in the bible. Now it is admitted on all hands that Moses gave this law by divine authority, admitting this to be so: what can we think of this very same Moses giving commands to the Israelites to perpetrate the following horrid deeds upon the Medianites.—"And Moses said unto them, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him; but all the women children that have not known man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves."—Num. xxxi, 17, 18. Now here is the precept,—"Thou shalt not kill;" and here is the tradition,—the women and boys were killed by command of Moses. Therefore, since modern revelation has declared that God gave Moses the command not to do murder we cannot believe that the Almighty set him to work to kill all these people, with the poor innocent children; and call upon the christian authorities to shew from the New Testament one single instance either by precept or example, where christianity was planted or upheld by the use of the sword, and upon what grounds they condemn to

less way in denunciation, and repudiating the absurd histories, as contained in scripture, as absurd, fabulous, and delusive, calculated to impress mankind with wrong, and erroneous ideas, on the power, and omnipotence of God, yet, if they had searched the scriptures carefully, and have compared passages, they would have been compelled to acknowledge that the bible, notwithstanding its absurdities, contains words of divine inspiration, and which modern divine revelation points out, and sets apart from the base assertions, and corruptions of man, and which the most learned cannot confute, contradict, or deny their truthfulness. I am aware that the works of the Great Organization have been perused in Rugby College, and have been sent by post to other eminent prelates, and have no doubt that the idea of writing the essays, and reviews, originated from my works, for never was there a cause were more warnings of woes for oppression, and amongst which more denunciations of the scripture, and of hypocrisy, and oppression, have been proclaimed in all parts of the kingdom, and as their truths are founded on divine revelation, and cannot be repudiated, the people are beginning to see their errors and acknowledge that the present systems of law, religions, and formalities, are hypocritical and delusive, and must therefore be an abomination to God, and for which his vengeance will assuredly fall on the oppressors and hypocrites, as declared both in ancient and modern divine revelation, whether it is believed or not, for

*God made no laws for merchandise;
He made no rich or poor,—
He made the world a paradise,
But man defiles his power.*

Such divine revelation has declared, with many other startling and prophetic warnings, and to which we humbly and sincerely invite attention, both to the authors of the essays and reviews, the bishops, the clergy and the people generally, so that they may read and understand the divine truths from heaven, as no mystery is attached to them.—
ED. S. F. P.

EDITOR'S REMARKS AS INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PEOPLE.

ON THE ABSURDITY OF CHRIST BEING TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL.

AT THE conclusion of the second Series of the *Light to the World*, I shewed that many of the errors and corruptions of the Old Testament were pointed out in the pamphlet, entitled—*The People's Guide*, while the corruptions of the New Testament are minutely explained in the *Scriptural Magazine*, in which the pure words of Christ and his apostles are plainly distinguished, or rather pointed out from the base inventions and assertions of man. And although the New Testament is made to sanction the doctrines of the Devil, and eternal torment in hell fire and brimstone, and Christ is made to say in his address to his apostles, in the books of the Evangelists, "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels;" and though this everlasting fire and a Devil is frequently mentioned throughout the New Testament, yet, we having proved that the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are corrupt from our present Church and Bible History, as written by the most eminent men, who are friends and advocates of the Church and the Bible. So also have we proved by divine revelation, that the words of Christ and his apostles have been falsified and corrupted, and spurious words inserted in their places for the purpose of confirming former inventions and spurious assertions of the translators, and thus Christ has been made to appear in the minds of the people as sanctioning and preaching the doctrine of Devils, and teaching eternal torment. But divine

revelation not only declares that this is a base invention on the part of ambitious men, but it also declares that Christ never preached or taught the belief in a Devil or eternal torment, and that the real words spoken by him in his address to his apostles, as described in St. Matthew and elsewhere, instead of the words as they are given, were as follows:—

"That when he should return to the earth to establish his kingdom with power and great glory, and the people of every nation, kindred and tongue, should be gathered together near to the ancient city, in the valley of Armageddon, the chosen people of the Lord on the right, and the oppressors and destroyers of peace and tranquility on the left, he would turn to those upon his left, and as his voice as of many thunders should issue from his mouth, saying, depart from me and meet the reward of your iniquities; they should turn upon each other in fright and confusion and destroy each other, and not one should be left, but all should perish: while to those on his right, who stood awe-stricken at the confusion and self destruction of their opposers, he declared that his words would be these:—blessed are ye, O my people, ye have been faithful to the counsels set before you, and obedient to the call of God, and have passed through the many calamities, and have attained the glorious results of the promised end; therefore go your ways into your several nations and inherit the blessings prepared for you since the foundation of the world, and all evils are erased from the earth, and all succeeding generations shall be happy henceforth and for ever."

Such were the pure words of Christ, and in them there is no mention of the existence of a devil or eternal torment. And divine revelation, as may be seen in the "Scriptural Magazine," condemns all such spurious assertions as an abomination to God and a libel upon his divine character, but the translators fearing that their blind followers might not be satisfied with the account they have laid to Christ as his teaching, have in other places actually set forth, that Christ himself was tempted by this purported presumptuous Devil. In the 4th chapter of St. Matthew, it states that Jesus was led by the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil, but it does not say what spirit led him, nor where this wilderness was situated, but that after forty days he was hungry, and the Devil said, "If thou be the Son of God command these stones to be made bread," &c. And again, "the Devil taketh him into a city, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, and jeering him said, 'If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down,'" To which, Jesus rebuked him, saying, "It is written, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." Again, "The Devil taketh him to the top of an exceeding high mountain and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, and said, all these will I give unto thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Another of the apostles is made to say that the Devil shewed him all the kingdoms of the earth in a moment of time; but Christ is made to say, "Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Now, to this purported temptation of Christ let me ask those persons who declare Christ to be one of the Godhead, coequal in trinity and unity, being God himself, who is acknowledged to be the Author, Creator, and Governor of all things; Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, knowing the secrets of all hearts, and from whom all power emanates; now, I say, could a being which must have been created by God, have the presumption to tempt that God who is Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and all-powerful? and who, if the Creator of all things, the said Devil must have been one of his creatures. But we are told it is the man Christ in the flesh, and that the Devil had power over the flesh. And supposing this to be true, it is proof that Christ and God are not one and the same, and that God must have sent him, as divine revelation in our day proves. But the Church and nearly all dissenting denominations teach the belief in the trinity and unity of the Godhead, three persons in one God, each one equal and possessing the power of all. Hence, if this is truth while Christ was upon the earth in mortal body and flesh, who ruled and governed the universe during his sojourn on the earth, and the three days he was confined in the sepulchre. But to answer this, it may be said there was yet the Father and the Holy Ghost; but this being the case, Christ having equal with them, being three in one God, the Father and the Holy Ghost would be incapable in power while Christ existed in the flesh separate from them upon the earth. But we ignore the existence of three Gods, as this would be idolatry. And our Church ministers, in defiance of setting forth a trinity, or three persons in one God, direct the people to observe the Ten Commandments; the first of which declares, "I am the Lord

thy God, thou shalt have no other Gods but me." And in many passages of Scripture, in its purity, there are words in which God declares that "I am the Lord, there is no God but me." I know not any. And again, "I am the Lord God, besides me there is no God." These words may be frequently traced throughout the Scripture, and are confirmed in divine revelation, and thus proves that the trinity of the Godhead is not recognised by the highest and holiest of angels, and further proves that God being Omnipotent, All-powerful, and Omniscient, he permits no creature of his creation either to tempt him or divide his power. As Christ was a being sent from God to perform his mission, he would not allow a Devil or any other being of his creation to mock him or tempt him, as the passages referred to describe. But it may be said that man, even man, not only tempted him, but scourged him, persecuted him, and betrayed him, but put him to death; and if man had this power, might not the Devil have power to tempt him? But if we refer to ancient prophecy and to Christ's own words, we shall find that he was ordained to this end before time was, and that his persecutors and murderers, and even Judas, his betrayer, were all fulfilling the divine decrees of God, even with Christ himself. Thus proving that, in all ages, evil and good have existed for a divine purpose, ordained by God, and that the evil have equally performed his Almighty will, and have existed that his glory may be made more manifest. It is not God who punisheth the wicked either in this world or in that which is to come, but that man punisheth each other. But in immortality the scale is reversed, as shown in the Second Series. Thus, evil exists in the minds of all, to a greater or less extent. This word evil has been corrupted into a monster Devil, which has terrified the human race through the terrible description they receive of him, into the most abject slavery and submission to their rulers and teachers.

Having shown, by facts, which none can repudiate or deny, that God is the Author and Creator of all things, and will not suffer his Almighty power to be divided. We ignore the existence of a Devil, and eternal torment, with the account of Christ's being tempted by the so-called Devil.

FULFILMENT OF MODERN PROPHECY; OR, SCEPTICISM AND UNBELIEF CONFUTED.

IN several parts of the prophecies, as contained in the works published by Mr. J. G. H. Brown, it declared that a thunderstorm should cross the island in the winter months, and should be so terrible that it should leave its traces behind it that would ever be remembered, and in another place, it stated that this storm should occur immediately on the passing of domestic strife in one locality, or quarter of this kingdom; and that the trees and shrubs should be in bud and blossom, and the wintry weather should yet be visible. Now the strife amongst the convicts in Chatham caused great alarm, and excitement, and the thunderstorm occurred immediately after, while the trees and shrubs was in bud and blossom in the winter months, and that the wintry weather was visible, both before, and since the storm, every body can testify by the heavy snow-storms which has recently followed, and to shew that modern prophecy is fulfilled, we give the following paragraph taken from the *Bury Post*:—

FEARFUL TEMPEST AT ATTLEBOROUGH, NORFOLK.—Brilliant flashes of lightning, accompanied with rain, and deafening thunder, crossed this county on the 12th of March. The electric fluid fell upon the town of Attleborough with a dreadful crash, a large poplar tree was shivered and thrown a great distance, every window in the "Friends" Meeting House, and two adjoining houses were crushed, a large post was torn up and shivered across the road, breaking another post in two pieces, a large board also was carried by the lightning from a carpenter's yard about a quarter of a mile off, and a little girl whose arms were at the time up to her head, could not remove them for two or three hours, several persons were struck speechless for a time.

NOTICE.

ON SUNDAY NEXT, April 7th, in the New Market Place, near the Bath House, Nottingham, will be commenced a series of readings as lectures, commencing at half-past Ten, a.m., and will be continued successively every Sunday morning, both at the place named and at other places of the town at the same time, due notice of which will be given at the place and places of meeting, each series will then be forwarded weekly in succession to all the localities where members of the Great Organization

reside, viz. Loughboro', Leicester, Bedford, Flecknoe, Isle of Wight, Sutton in Ashfield, Manchester, and Brandon in Suffolk. The first of the Lectures will show how the present ignorance, hypocrisy, delusion, and falsehood is now flying before the divine light of truth, justice, righteousness, and reason, and every lecture will explain the doctrines and principles as proclaimed in divine revelation, and observed by the enrolled members of the Great Organization, who are instructed to make their houses their churches and to be a people preparing for the Lord, and will shew the nature of the calamities that will fall upon the earth, with their causes, proving that the oppression, hypocrisy, priestcraft, and delusion, through the corruption of the Scriptures, are the sole causes of every evil which afflicts mankind and that divine revelation denounces oppression, exposes hypocritical priestcraft, and delusion, with all its mummeries, by shewing up who are the oppressors, and how the people are oppressed, and who are the hypocrites, and how hypocrisy is manifested, how priestcraft is detected, and who are its perpetrators, and why they propagate delusion, and these proclamations and denunciations of divine revelation has commanded to be made in the public places, and in the highways and byeways, and the faithful believers joyfully obey the commands of God, and heed not the attitude of those who may oppose them, nor regard the scoffs, jeers, and abuse of the prejudiced and bigoted unbelievers of divine revelation; for God has promised protection to the faithful observers of his revealed will, and they, relying upon his divine promises, will go forth to proclaim these truths have neither salary nor remuneration for doing so, yet they will brave all opposition, and serve God faithfully but faithfully, to benefit their fellow creatures, and can it be possible to think that men will make such a sacrifice, and incur the scoffs, jeers, and evil remarks of the public, unless they really believed what they were propagating were truths which could not be contradicted nor confuted? they have tested the truths of divine revelation, and find by experience that the learned cannot confute its truths, and hence they are prepared to experience scoffs, jeers, and rebukes, their only object being to enlighten the people and to shew them their past and present errors and delusions.

Therefore trusting that the people will attend these public meetings, so that their eyes may be opened and their minds enlightened, and no longer suffer themselves to be priest-ridden or deluded, or plundered of their earnings by hypocrisy and deception, but investigate the truths of divine revelation, and pray earnestly that God may direct them aright, and they may rest assured that with sincerity of heart and humble prayer that a merciful God will hear them and direct them to that path which leadeth to happiness in this world, and everlasting happiness, rest, and glory in the world to come. Therefore we exhort all to read the works of the Great Organization and embrace the truths of divine revelation, and so be prepared for whatever a merciful God may pour down upon the earth.

Now ready, price one penny, the first of the series of pamphlets, containing Startling Revelations on the future, in a neat coloured wrapper, with an illustration, and fourteen pages close print, and entitled THE WORLD AS IT IS, AND THE WORLD AS IT WILL BE; or, the Great Millennium Era, and the Reign of Christ, shewing the destruction which must precede the last great day, prior to which every structure and every wall shall fall, as foretold by the prophets in ancient writ, shewing also how the people will pass through the calamities as God's chosen people, how they will be located, clothed, & provided for, with the nature of their employments and traffic in every nation, as money will no longer exist, describing the domiciles also, which will be inhabited by the people, after the Millennium Era is established in every nation, with a minute description of the internal and external appearance of such domiciles, as displayed by visions and revelations from on high, and in which, all things as they will exist in the Millennium Era, during the reign of Christ, will be duly described. The pamphlets may be had wholesale at the repository for spiritual works, from Mr. J. G. H. Brown, Great Alfred St., Nottingham; and sold by Mr. R. Sutcliffe, 57, Thomas St., Manchester. Mr. J. Rhodes, 10, Great Bridgewater St. Manchester, & all corresponding agents in the localities, as named above, price one penny.

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