

FIRE



REPRESENTING THE  
FIRE OF GOD'S WRATH

THE

# SWORD OF TRUTH.

A WORK DEVOTED TO THE MORAL, RELIGIOUS, AND POLITICAL  
STATE OF MANKIND; IN WHICH, WILL BE SHEWN  
THE PROGRESS OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH,  
AS DEVELOPING ITSELF TO  
MANKIND IN GENERAL.



PART I.—VOL. 1.]

For the week ending Saturday, August 9th, 1862

[PRICE 1/4D.

"I will bring my people against thee with the sword."—W. M.

The objects for which this work is issued, are as its mottoes point out, first, the Sword of Truth is intended to wage war against every evil raised up in defiance of God's eternal will, and its pages will be devoted to the cutting down and preparing the way for the armies of the Lord of Hosts, and it is intended to be sent forth through the length and breadth of the earth, to establish truth and overthrow error in every shape and form, and therefore it must begin first at Jerusalem, as our Redeemer taught his disciples, hence it must take up the cause of truth, and put down error in this place first, and then take up the subject universally, so that the truth may reign triumphant in the hearts and minds of men, and thus will it cut down and consume every evil and build up the beautiful structure of truth, which shall mark this mighty epoch in all ages yet to come: such we believe will be the result of its spread and progress; we do not promise that its pages shall contain eloquence, such as is generally seen in our religious periodicals, but one thing is promised, that it shall contain the truth as far as it is known and can be comprehended by its promoters; we have not the least doubt that it will meet with much criticism and much opposition, but the opposition we shall not heed, as truth has always been opposed by some, and critics and criticism we care not for, as our objects are truth and righteousness, labouring solely for the glory of God and the welfare of mankind in general, and such as we have we give, and give it freely and fearlessly. This periodical will also be devoted to establishing the Universal Church of Christ, and hence it is necessary, before a new structure can be established, to cut down and consume that which it is plain is not in accordance with God's revealed word, *Sectarianism*, and so unite mankind into one universal bond of brotherhood, singing the same praise, offering the same prayers, teaching the same doctrines, advocating the same principles. This cannot be accomplished by man, as every effort hitherto put forth by man has fallen to the ground, and will do so, unless under the supreme direction of Him who ruleth all things by His Almighty power, for "it is not by might or by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." And as the word of truth declares that angels shall gather together the (elect) or chosen people from the

four winds of heaven, it must be through the instrumentality of these holy beings that the great work of gathering together into the fold of Christ must be done by His celestial angels, who are ministering spirits to all the inhabitants of the earth; such will be the harvest of the world; such will be the power that will gather it, and the result will be glorious, and the harvest great, and as Christ had to say in his day, "the labourers were few," so we have to say, the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Though the harvest is ripe, and many are now looking for the coming of the Messiah, to claim his kingdom as his own; yet how can this be? when the doctrines taught are as diversified as possible; the different creeds are also as opposite as light to darkness, as truth to error, and yet they all declare, "is not the Lord amongst us, none evil can come upon us," but this is crying "peace, peace, when there is no peace," for sudden destruction is at hand; for to what part of the professed christian church do they suppose Christ will come, since all believe themselves to be right, and all the rest wrong, and all found their belief on the same book, and their creeds are as opposite to each other as light is to darkness, and they all pray that Christ's kingdom may come, and that God's will may be done on earth as in heaven. Now the question may be asked, are they prepared to give up their prejudices and false creeds, and form themselves into a universal church, or will they continue to hold on to their sectarianism; if so, depend upon it they will not be amongst that number portrayed unto John on the Isle of Patmos, who were gathered out of all nations, kindreds, and tongues; thus we call upon all to investigate the things that will appear from time to time in the Sword of Truth, and we have not the least doubt, if that investigation take place in a proper christian spirit, that God will enlighten their minds on this all-important subject, and bring them to a full knowledge of the truths taught by Christ and his Apostles. Such, then, are the objects for which this periodical is sent forth, and though it may have some great battles to fight, 'ere the truth may prevail, yet we put our trust in God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and to Him shall be given the glory, whose spirit—"the spirit of truth,"—we trust will lead and guide us into all truth; and though much that may be written, may at the onset, startle the minds and understandings of many who have hitherto believed that they

have embraced the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, yet we ask at their own hands a full investigation into the things herein set forth, and ask God to guide them by His holy spirit, and then we have no fear of the result. Any communication that bears the impress of truth, or a desire for investigation into the truths set forth, will receive a kindly reception at the hands of the Editor, and every information that can be given, in accordance with strict justice, will be attended to, but as our space for the present will be confined, we cannot insert any lengthy communications, neither any thing written for the sake of controversy — *Editor.*

#### A NARRATIVE.

Shewing the suffering and losses, both in reference to this world's goods and the sacrifice of friendship made by T. C. S. for the sake of what has now proved itself to be a great and glorious cause.

About September, 1856, I first came in contact with a work, entitled the Warning Message from the World of Spirits, and in the portion lent to me by a friend, I saw the account of the sufferings of a man in the world of immortality who was well known to me whilst living, and having had much conversation with him concerning his spiritual welfare whilst I was a local preacher amongst the Baptists, and have seen him shed tears because he could not refrain from the use of strong drink, and had often-times heard him state how he was first led step by step to this destructive system by his associates when at college, when he stated that he would give the world if he had it, if he could deny himself of that luxury as I could; and on reading the account given by his spirit in the Warning Message, it appeared to me to contain much truth, and therefore I felt inclined to read more of the same work and anxiously sought to obtain the other numbers; these made a deep and lasting impression on my mind, and I began at once to question the doctrine of eternal torment, and finally came to the conclusion that there was no eternal torment for man after death, but that we suffer in accordance with the deeds done whilst in the body, and after purification through the shedding of the Redeemer's blood, we all, without exception, reach eternal happiness, and there sing the praises of God and the Lamb, who hath washed away our transgression by his precious blood. Shortly after this change in my mind, I heard a sermon preached on eternal torment, the text was John iii. 36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." This sermon made me feel very uncomfortable, so much so, that I could scarcely sit to hear it completed, but struggled hard to keep my seat lest I should call the people's attention to myself, by leaving the chapel in the midst of the sermon. I had seen previous to this, in the work alluded to, that Mr. B., the then believed prophet of the Lord, with a few

persons by whom he was surrounded, that he would answer questions on all important subjects. I took the earliest opportunity to see him and ask him to seek instruction on my behalf, in reference to the correct interpretation of the passage of scripture, the answer was as follows:—"Behold, I am commanded to declare that the true interpretation on these words, are as follows: whosoever believeth in Christ, believeth in him that sent me; and he that believeth not shall incur the wrath of God upon him." I had seen Mr. B. previous to this with a friend, and asked some instruction in reference to myself, who was then suffering under a malady which was pronounced incurable by one of the most eminent physicians in Nottingham; I had after that, received much benefit from the botanic practice, but was at the time in a very weak and debilitated state, so that it was with the greatest difficulty I could walk up an hill, and the answer I received in reference to myself was, "that I had much to live for and much to accomplish, therefore I was not to fear;" this, to me, was almost incredible, and was much dejected and felt that my time was but short, and having a young family comparatively unprovided for, I was much depressed in mind and body, and therefore the answer startled me, as I was quite prepared to hear one of a different nature; and after seeing the interpretation of the passage of scripture before-named, I remarked, if the scripture is in that state what a good thing it would be if it was corrected by revelation, we then asked a question if necessary instruction would be given if we endeavoured to bring out a work for that purpose, the answer was:—"We now declare if this work shall be proceeded with it shall go forth in triumph as a comfort and guide to the people, and woe be to him who shall endeavour by any means to throw impediments in the way of its progress and completion." I at once offered to find the means to publish the work, and we at once set to work to seek instruction for our guide, and we progressed rapidly with it as I was then in a position to devote much time to the writing of that work, which was dictated by the Medium before alluded to, and revelations obtained, shewing the corruptions and mis-translations from the original writings of the Apostles; and I felt a pleasure in the work I was engaged in, believing, as I now do, that it was ordained by God to be a light to the Gentiles and prepare the way for the establishment of the kingdom and church of Christ on the earth. The work was completed and brought before the public at what we considered to be prime cost, as I stated that I did not wish the people to think or say that it had been brought out for gain, and if all the numbers had been sold it would not have cleared the expense of publishing and advertising; and during the compilation of this work I began to feel that I was not acting in a straightforward manner, by remaining a member of the General Baptist Church, whilst I was assisting to bring out a work which condemned the doctrine of eternal torment as being erroneous, the consequence was I sought instruction on the subject, and that instruction decided me in withdrawing from that

church. I wrote a letter requesting to withdraw, and the consequence was a visit from the ministers, as is shewn in a copy of the pamphlet afterwards published, and the date is there affixed to the letters, which will shew that the pamphlet was published and the withdrawal took place some time after I read the work, entitled the Warning Message; and the reason why this pamphlet was published is stated in its pages, and this will plainly shew the cause of its publication, (there is one remark I wish to make in reference to a statement made therein) which might be misunderstood by some, in fact, the minister has since told me that that construction might be put upon it, that was, that Mr. H. called at my house in my absence and notwithstanding my letter, accused me to my wife of infidelity or Mormonism; I do not wish it to be understood that Mr. H. called knowing that I was out, I believe it was quite accidental, therefore if this should fall into that gentleman's hands I have no doubt that he will be

satisfied with this explanation, as it is my wish that a true statement should be placed before the public, as my christian character is at stake through falsehoods printed in a work, entitled the Universal Magazine, and hence the necessity of again bringing before the public the pamphlet printed at my expense and given away to the members of the church before alluded to; the pamphlet is as follows:—

*An Address to the Members and Congregation of the General Baptist Church, and its branches, in the vicinity of Nottingham.*

Men and brethren! I, having for the last eight years, up to a very recent period, been a member of the General Baptist Church, in the welfare of which I have earnestly and devoutly laboured, by endeavouring to propagate the doctrines of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the principles laid down in the New

(To be continued in our next.)

To the Members

NOW

forming the nucleus

OF THE



Universal Church,

ESTABLISHED BY

DIRECTIONS

FROM ON HIGH.

*The New Jerusalem come down from God out of Heaven*

Beloved brethren, we have now passed through the fearful ordeal, foretold unto us by the angel of the Most High, and are brought out of much tribulation by passing through poverty and being surrounded by vice and immorality, and are now placed on the open ground that we may assist in overthrowing every evil that has arisen through man's selfishness and ambition, and you are now called upon to make your houses your churches, as heretofore, and thus, by so doing, you will be protected from the wrath of God, and also will be enabled thereby to overthrow every evil that you are surrounded by, poverty, malice, discontent, vice, and immorality; then be ye ready when called upon to do so, to open your houses for divine worship, so that the ancient prophet's words may be realized, that man may worship God under their own vine and figtree, or in the dwellings surrounded by these emblems of happiness and comfort, given for the enjoyment of all God's creatures, so that they may build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat the fruit of them, and not as now, have to sell that which God gave for the enjoyment of all. But these luxuries have now to be sold to purchase the common necessaries of life; and thus, the people, by oppression, have to reap and sow, plant and prune, and by their sweat and

blood, produce luxuries for others which they themselves cannot partake of, because of the oppression they endure at the hands of they who rule them; then let the people lift up their heads, for their redemption draweth nigh; God has taken their cause into His own hands, and by being guided by the instruction given every evil shall be overthrown, for truth and righteousness must prevail; and then that time so beautifully portrayed by the ancient prophets will have come, when we shall not have to ask our neighbour whether they know the Lord, but all shall know Him from the least even to the greatest; and this, we know, can be accomplished in far less time than many anticipate, for God has access to every heart, and His holy angels watch over all our actions, and through this means men can be brought to see the error of their ways, and worship the one true and living God; but He, being the Author and Creator of all angels and spirits, He hath also in His hands a mighty weapon in the persons of evil spirits, which He, in His divine wisdom, created, and by leaving man to the power of these evil beings, (by many called devils, or the devil), His purposes can be brought about in far less time, for these beings are now, as it were, let loose upon mankind and those who are determined to resist the strivings of the holy spirits or angels, who are endeavouring to bring man to a knowledge of the truth by resisting that

holy influence, will be left to the temptation of that power which can and will hurl them to destruction, and who are so formed and created that they take as much delight in doing this work as the evil minded amongst men take a delight in sin and wickedness. But these beings have no power to thwart God's will, but they are permitted to do this work to bring about the decrees of Him who ruleth all things by His Almighty power; and it was this power that was let loose upon mankind in the days of the Redeemer, to show forth God's Almighty power and to direct these persons to the Redeemer, that he might prove to the world that he was truly the sent of God. But the Jews ascribed this power that Christ possessed to be the work of Beelzebub, or the Prince of Darkness, meaning the ruler of this low class of spirits, whose name modern spiritualism shows to be Corbynn, thus has arisen the word devil, signifying evil, only making it personal, when in reality there are legions of them, as one portion of Scripture pourtrays.

The following revelations were given as a guide and instruction to the members who were cut off and had withdrawn through the oppression and tyranny of the Medium of the Great Organization:—

*Revelation, given June 16th, 1862.*—"I, Gabriel, the angel of the Lord of power, might, majesty, and dominion, am commanded to declare unto thee thus, that thou shalt establish the new Jerusalem by directions from on high, in which the power of God shall be made manifest, by appointing persons to go forth in God's divine name, declaring to the people that the overthrow of all earthly power which is opposed to God's divine will, shall be overthrown by the establishing of that church which shall ultimately become universal; and this church shall be called *The New Jerusalem*, and its people re-named the twelve tribes of Israel, and they shall be gathered out of every nation under heaven by His angelic host, and made fit to dwell with Christ in his kingdom, and reign for ever with him as kings and priests throughout all eternity, where he is seated on his throne—the throne of his Father,— which is in heaven, and he shall reign supremely in the hearts of men by his spirit, and his power shall be made manifest to the children of men so that they shall acknowledge that,

Christ is come on earth again,  
O'er his chosen flock to reign.

Therefore give heed to the instruction you may receive from time to time; put your confidence in God, who is the giver of every good and perfect gift, and thou shalt prosper in all thy undertakings, and so triumph over all thine enemies both in the spirit world and on earth, and shall conduct his chosen people on and assist in the overthrow of every evil which has raised itself up in defiance of God's will. Thus the Lord hath said: praised be His holy name."

*Revelation, June 16th, 1862.*—"Let your meetings continue as before directed, and God's holy spirit shall manifest itself amongst you as before foretold unto thee; so be prepared, and do not let the people be taken by surprise, but let them be warned and prepared to witness the bestowal of gifts to the church, as of old, and thereby

the people will see who are the chosen ministers and messengers, who shall be sent forth as a light to a dark and benighted world, to establish the universal church of Christ."

June 16th, 1862. QUESTION.—"Shall we now enroll the people or re-name them, and if so, how shall it be done to be in accordance with divine will."

ANSWER—"Enroll the people at once, and thou shalt be their leader and appoint the first captain of the Lord's host or the ruler of the first legion, and as soon as the number reach fifty, appoint a leader over them, and let your children who are under fourteen years be enrolled amongst you, and as they grow up to maturity let them be asked for their consent to continue or withdraw as it may seem good in their sight, so that they shall truly be a chosen people of God, passing through the wilderness of this world, to the discomfiture of all those who are opposed to God's divine will and word. Lay these instructions before the people at your next meeting, and invite all who can believe fully the divine truths revealed, to at once enroll themselves amongst His chosen people, plucked out from amongst vice and immorality for the purpose before laid down in these instructions. Therefore heed not the opposers of God's divine will, do your duty fearlessly, and let not their threats be heeded, as you have nothing to fear, being under the divine protection of that God who ruleth all things by His almighty power."

The above revelations were given under circumstances which will be fully explained in the narrative in the *Sword of Truth*, which is being written under direction given from on high, as will hereafter be seen. We have much information given in divine revelation concerning the establishing of the new church, which will be published as space and means allow, and subscriptions to assist in this object will be thankfully received and accounted for in its pages.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

The following works may be had by applying to T. C. STRETTON, Great Alfred Street Central, Nottingham, by sending Postage Stamps or Post Office Order.

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P.S.—All communications for the above pages to be addressed to T. C. STRETTON, Great Alfred Street Central, Nottingham.