

ONE GREAT TESTIMONY

Religion Ever the Same, Though Men May Differ.

The word of the Lord endureth for ever—*Peter 1. 25.*

Perhaps the words of the Irish hymn writer voices the deepest religious feelings of to-day:

Change and decay in all around I see;

O, Thou who changest not, abide

with me.

There has been a change in mental attitude toward all things that pertain to religion. The doctrine of evolution has unveiled a new world. And yet it is the same old world; we have simply revised our opinions about it. The universe did not break up into chaos with the downfall of the Ptolemaic system of astronomy. We simply awoke one day to find we in reality the earth instead of sitting on a throne, receiving the adoration of the sun and stars, also paid homage and in rotation and revolution kept us in the worship of one little bright-up cinder. Similarly, though Charles Darwin has changed men's views of science and history and of all human speculation, the facts of life remain the same: It is only the opinions of those which change and differ.

In some instant, that their religion is taken away; that the Bible is being destroyed as God's word to man and its portion of authority undermined; that the church, the sacraments, that creed the ministry, no longer hold the attention and reverence of men, and that all authority for faith itself is shattered. They look back with longing eyes to the days when there was

NO HIGHER CRITICISM,

when there was no questioning of the dogmas of religion, when men believed their theologies as they did the multiplication tables.

It would be safe to say to observe that those dogs now exist, they are part of an ideal in operation. There have always been skeptics; there have always been questionings: "All is vanity and vexation of spirit," is only one ancient testimony. The difference to-day is that skepticism and questionings are more apparent.

Then what must be the attitude of the religious mind to-day? Simply to assert more vigorously the old doctrine of inspiration, to proclaim with more definiteness the old formularies? If they is nothing better, nothing sure, the voice must grow fainter and weaker until finally it

parative insignificance of the house being erected to the former temple in its glory.

13. Could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people?—A most marked difference of effect which the inauguration of the building had upon the younger people, on the one hand, and the older people, on the other.

14. Was it in the office of the magazine that he obtained his chance? There he was told by his mother that some day he might be wealthy and live in a palace instead of the humble home the family occupied from the time of his birth in this country from Wales. A far cry seen to the boy, though, until he might be a knight in Wales, said he became fifteen, he said good-bye to the family and came to New York to make his own fortune.

15. The story goes further, though, and it is a true one when Edward John Birrell, Bishop-head, Eastham and Penrith, told him when he was told by his mother that some day he might be wealthy and live in a palace instead of the humble home the family occupied from the time of his birth in this country from Wales. A far cry seen to the boy, though, until he might be a knight in Wales, said he became fifteen, he said good-bye to the family and came to New York to make his own fortune.

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18. Weakened the hands of the people of Jerusalem?—Put obstacles in their way, hindered them in their enterprise in every manner possible.

19. Hired counselors against them to frustrate their purpose—Men who, for pay, made false representations before the king concerning the purposes and work of the Jews at Jerusalem.

20. Verse 10. They set—that is, those in charge of the building set the priests—Some ancient manuscripts read, "The priests stood."

Their apparel—the dress of the priests consisted of short breeches (Exod. 28: 32) made of fine linen; a long coat with sleeves also made of fine linen; a girdle, woven of the same colors that were in the veil before the Holy Place; a cap of linen. On their feet they wore nothing (temp. Exod. 3: 5, 9, 27-29; Josh. 5: 15).

Sons of Asaph with symbols—for the instrument of instrumental music the Levites by David and of the symbols specially to the sons of Asaph, son of Amram 1 Chron. 25: 1 with 1 Chron. 16: 4, 5 and 25: 6, 14. They sang unto another.

Probably, as has been the traditional interpretation, this refers to an ariphonal singing in which two choirs sang alternate phrases in response to each other. Such psalms as 1 Chron. 21: 7-10; 10: 107; 118 were composed especially to such rendering. Our limited knowledge, however, concerning early Jewish music makes it impossible to speak authoritatively with regard to what music was used and how it was rendered.

For he is good; for his loving-kindness endureth forever toward Israel. These words are probably not a quotation from the psalms, but rather a liturgical response used at sacred festivals, upon which the well-known psalm, Psa. 136, was itself based. This verse is a marked fulfillment of the prophecy, Jer. 33: 10, 11, which compare.

12. Old men that had seen the first house—the "first house" refers to Solomon's temple, which had been destroyed in 586 B. C., fifty-one years before. Even sixteen years later the prophet Haggai (2: 8) could still appeal to some who had seen the former temple.

Went with a loud voice—in their extreme sorrow because of the coming opinions.

BRITISH WAGES DROP.

Less Pay for Workmen is Record for Past Year.

The annual report of the British Board of Trade, issued recently, on the changes in rates of wages and hours of labor for last year show that the reduction in wages noted in the three preceding years was continued.

Nearly 90,000 work people in all had their wages cut during the year, 16,000 of the number obtaining increases amounting to more than £1,000 per week, while nearly 785,000 sustained decreases amounting to over £40,000. The net result therefore is a decrease of £39,200 in 1903, £72,000 in 1902, and £76,000 in 1901. Roughly, the total of the year's wages fell by £38,000, £40,000 in 1902 and £1,600,000 in 1901.

The following table shows the number of workpeople affected and the total computed amount of the changes for each of the years 1895-1901:

Workpeople, ^{in thousands} Increases.

1895 424,708 23,28,125

1896 605,401 24,26,51

1897 507,444 24,31,50

1898 502,119 24,30,71

1899 1,117,069 24,90,31

1900 1,132,386 24,208,53

1901 928,826 24,76,58

1902 887,200 24,72,59

1903 809,635 24,38,52

1904 790,000 24,39,24

For inanimate Liverpool the word is overwhelming—monotony. And Liverpool is an absorbing life vibrates with a high voltage commercial life. It is the keenest trading point under the unjaded sky. Its shops overflow with find goods at moderate price. It is a better town to shop in than London. Its Gold street is London's Lime street and its Strand is London's Strand. Its hotels and restaurants are crowded with the tourists of a waveless sea. It is only when one gets quite clear of the centre of Liverpool, that one finds even a few trees and small front gardens and some mild attempts at architectural individuality. What is the word for them, for this seaford of English cities?

The industrial principalities affect

were coal mining, iron smelting, iron

and steel manufacture, shipbuilding,

glass bottle making and building.

The preliminary figures for the first half of this week show a decrease of £29,603 per week compared with £18,038 in the same period last year.

Changes in the hours of labor last year were comparatively small, averaging 16,792 work-peopple, of whom 16,018 had their hours of labor reduced.

THE MAIN TRUTH

is that the Bible did not preclude this foundation of your religious belief, but blossomed from it. In the one New Testament writer, Men dying for good, being moved by the holy spirit, die for the sake of their generation, their habits of thought permitted them to be moved so they were moved. And what they spoke is of value to us, not as an infallible rule of faith and practice, but as an actual religious experience of men of flesh and blood like our own. Much we can appropriate, and make our own because our own religious natures respond to it. Much we can enjoy and feel it because it actually does nourish. It goes straight to the heart without the aid of theory or inspiration.

The method of compilation has

nothing to do with the Bible's power

or its great spiritual life. That

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there have always been questionings:

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