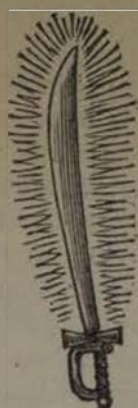


THE SWORD

OF

A WORK DEVOTED TO THE MORAL, RELIGIOUS,
WILL BE SHEWN THE PROGRESS
ITSELF TO MANKIND



TRUTH,

AND POLITICAL STATE OF MANKIND; IN WHICH,
OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH, AS DEVELOPING
IN GENERAL.

FIRE REPRESENTING THE



FIRE OF GOD'S WRATH.

PART 2.—VOL. 1.]

For the week ending Saturday, August 23rd, 1862.

[PRICE 4D.]

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

To the readers of the *Sword of Truth* we wish more particularly to address these few words; we have seen many works set before the world as truth; but almost invariably time has proved that much they have contained has been error; this rule may have had its exceptions, but they are few and far between; and thus we beg of our readers a candid and unbiased hearing, and we only wish the same test to be applied to this paper, as is generally given to others, that is the test recommended by the Apostle Paul, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good;" as it is only by this means we can arrive at the true standard of the truth, and we ask our readers to carefully watch the things set forth in its pages, and if as time passes on it proves to be a *Sword of Error*, and not of *Truth*, reject it and cast its pages to the winds. But if it bear out its title, then treasure it up as though thou had found a pearl of great price; our objects are not controversy, but we shall steer our path straight forward, cutting down error and falsehood, leaving the wrath of God to consume all that is not pleasing in his sight; thus we shall endeavour to avoid all retaliation, as far as is consistent with strict justice, and shall leave our enemies in the hands of God as he has declared—"Vengeance is mine and I will repay it saith the Lord." We wish not to rail on even our enemies, but would rather pray that the Lord would open their eyes to the truth, and guide them by His Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Truth.—*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.

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

(Continued from our last.)

Testament. But being an anxious and earnest seeker after Divine truth, my constant perusal of the Scriptures, with the gift I believe myself to possess of the Holy Spirit, have directed my attention to many errors and contradictory passages, both in the Old and New Testament; and which have convinced me of the inconsistency of the doctrines upon which we are instructed to rely for our salvation; these convictions have caused me to seek earnestly in many directions, trusting that the result of my labours would reveal the Gospel to me in all its purity; and I am happy to say that the blessings of an all-wise God have crowned my efforts with success, and that I am now fully enabled, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to appreciate all the Divine attributes of a blessed Redeemer, and a merciful God; and, without animosity or feelings of anger towards any of my fellow creatures, I am, in duty to God, here bound to confess that I can no longer look with calmness or unconcern upon the hypocritical delusions under which I have long seen my fellow creatures labour; but with true charity of feeling, brotherly love, and affection towards all men, I here call upon them in the name of that Christ who died for our salvation, and in the name of that God who knoweth the secrets of all hearts, that they may henceforth devoutly pray unto Him that He will open their eyes and enlighten their understandings by His Holy Spirit, that they may be enabled to detect the cunning, craft, and ambition of those whose whole study it is to keep them, the people, in superstitious ignorance of what the real attributes of Almighty God and the Saviour Jesus Christ are. For, although the teachers and rulers of the people hold forth the scriptures, in their present form, as the foundation of their faith, yet these said rulers and teachers act in open defiance to them; for in the scrip-

tures we find that Christ and His apostles neither required the people to furnish them with stately mansions, retinues of servants, high salaries, or an idle position; but laboured hard, incessantly, and unceasingly, to bring the people to repentance and fear of God; diffusing charity and lovingkindness amongst each other; relying solely for their living upon the charity of those amongst whom they sojourned; administering comfort and consolation both to the mind and body, without charge or fee. Mark the contrast between Christ, His followers, and those who make pretensions to follow His footsteps in the present day; and we shall find that there is scarcely a minister amongst all the churches who has ever really inconvenienced himself by the performance of one real act of charity. And yet they are grasping from the hard earnings of their poor ignorant followers, many of whom have to labour six days out of the week, at the most toilsome duties, many of whom do not receive more than from 10s. to 12s. per week, and yet the minister who pretends to study the welfare of both body and soul of his poor ignorant followers, coolly puts into his pocket over three pounds per week, when all the labour he performs would not average, or be equal to, fourteen hours hard work; and yet he calls himself the follower of Christ, the minister of God, and the people's guide, and is content to live in luxury and idleness, and in sumptuous splendour, doing nothing, or but very little for his salary, while hundreds of his fellow-creatures are perishing for want, and for whom he cares but little, so far, or so long as they continue to contribute from their wretched weekly pitances. Friends and brothers! I have studied much upon this subject, and have seen its abomination, and, though I still believe the Baptist Church to be nearer the truth than any, yet I also am convinced that there is much hypocrisy connected with that church, as even all others, and though, as the following copies of letters will prove that I have for the above reasons, and many others, withdrawn myself from that church, yet I have not joined, nor do I intend to join, any other, as the cause into which I have embarked is opposed to all things which are founded on oppression, and we are instructed to denounce all present sects and denominations as hypocritical delusions and abominations to God; neither are we instructed to establish, set up, or announce the beginning of any other new sect or denomination; but merely to warn the people of the calamities, which are under the direction of Almighty God, about to fall upon the earth, that they may be prepared for the coming change; so that they may be numbered amongst that chosen people who shall live to bear testimony, and be witness of the last great day of God Almighty, when Christ, the Redeemer shall come upon the earth and establish his kingdom; for until then, and then only, will His church be universal, and the people shall worship Him and glorify God with one accord. Having thus far shown the cause of my withdrawal, I must here call the attention of the brethren to my reasons for the issue of this tract. First: that as soon as I was satisfied of the Divine truths of the cause into which I have

embarked, I thought it my duty to avoid hypocrisy, and notify the same to the church. Secondly: I accordingly wrote to the minister (Mr. H.) informing him that I could no longer agree with the doctrines of eternal punishment, and that I believed that the atonement of the Saviour's blood ransomed all unbelievers from that curse, who, after purification, would enter eternal rest. Thirdly: that Mr. H. called at my house, in my absence, and, notwithstanding my letter, accused me to my wife of infidelity, or Mormonism. Fourthly: Mr. L., another of the ministers, called upon me a few days after, when I gave a thorough explanation to him, and requested him that my letter should be laid before the church; when he stated that I had better defer resigning my membership, as I might see the error and delusion under which he believed me to be labouring. But I answered him that I was quite satisfied of the truth of my cause, and trusted that he would shortly see his error. He, however, wished me to defer it for a time; and I accordingly resolved to make an enquiry as to what steps I was justified in taking, and forwarded to him the result of such enquiry, with another letter, and other communications, informing him that, if he did not lay them before the church, I should go to the church meeting personally and do so. The following is a copy of the first letter written by me to Mr. H., and a spiritual revelation obtained at my request, as a guide to the steps I was in duty bound to take in the matter.

In answer to my enquiry the following revelation was given by the great angel Gabriel:—

Revelation.—Behold! as thou hast asked for instruction let the following be thy guide. For lo! to fear the
 —(To be continued in our next.)

On the 14th of August, 1862, I received a letter, or rather a supposed revelation from Mr. Lole, given to the Nottingham Spiritual Circle, ordering it to be published in the Universal Magazine, and in it the members of the Great Organization are warned, not to heed what may be said or circulated by us, we suppose it is meant for us, as it was sent with a foot note, styling our paper the Sword of Error; I immediately sought for instruction from on High, and asked God to send His Holy and Celestial angel Gabriel to reveal unto me an answer, and to shew unto me if the great angel Gabriel, had given the revelation sent to me by Mr. Lole, the following was given as an answer:—

I, Gabriel, declare unto thee this revelation is not given by me, but is composed by the Medium for the purpose of upholding the Great Organization, which he feels is about to fall, through disobedience, and that he must fall with it; as I, the angel of the Lord hath already declared, therefore heed it not, but send this to the man as a warning, so that he cannot say that God is unjust in not warning him of the delusion he is now labouring under, and let him now consider how his hopes have been cut off from time to time, in reference to the literal fulfilment of the prophecies given, and let him now lift up his eyes and behold the beautiful harvest that is now plentiful and ripe, and already being

gathered, then ask himself what harvest it is that will not be gathered,—it is the harvest of the Great Organization, as he will shortly find; and has he not proved that he retired to rest with peace upon his lips, but arose in the morning with the din of war upon his ears,

such has now come to pass, and the nation's spiritual foes have already combined, and their forces have landed upon these shores, as he will shortly fully understand. Thus, I, Gabriel, the angel of the Lord of hosts hath been commanded to declare.

To the Members

KOW

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 lived to see the realization of the ancient Prophets words, and also the truths set forth in modern divine revelation, in seeing established the church and kingdom of Christ, and thus the governor or ruler portrayed by the ancient Prophets who was predicted to come and reign, and whose birth-place was to be Bethlehem-Epratah, as named by the Prophet Micah 700 years before the event took place. "But thou Bethlehem-Epratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me, that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting," Mic. v. 2. Thus his birth-place was pointed out by the Prophet of old, and his rule or reign over his kingdom predicted, upwards of 2500 years before its establishment, thus we have lived to see the dawn of that glorious and happy period so frequently portrayed to take place in the latter days of the Christian dispensation, when it was portrayed by the ancients, that men should worship God and should acknowledge Christ as king over his people, thus his reign has now dawned upon us, and the New Jerusalem predicted is established, under the direction of God's holy angels, who are ministering spirits to all the inhabitants of the earth; thus we see two of the greatest events predicted by the Apostle John, and the Prophet Micah come to pass at the same time, but as it was at the birth of Christ, so it will be at the commencement of his reign, but few will believe in it, for Christ said "when I come shall I find faith on the earth?" thus shewing the smallness of the number and the littleness of their faith at the time pointed out, and now as the New Jerusalem is being built up, and prepared for his power to be more fully manifest therein, we invite all who have been prepared for his coming by the doctrines taught in the Great Organization, and who are now cast out from amongst them, to come and enjoy that which is prepared for them; and also any who are amongst its ranks who are prepared to go as portrayed

unto them to Zion, and thus form a part of the New Jerusalem come down from God out of heaven as portrayed unto us, in these the latter days of this dispensation, by the angel of the Lord several years before its establishment.

We will now give several revelations as they were revealed with the date affixed thereto, so that the people may see that directions have been given from on high for the establishment of this church and kingdom, and the enrolling of the armies of the Lord of Hosts as beforetime portrayed unto us.

Revelation June 18th, 1862.—"I, Gabriel, declare unto thee in the name of the everliving and true God, that thou shall continue to expose this man's fraud and duplicity publicly, so that it may be known why he is rejected and thou art chosen to lead the armies of Zion as before portrayed, therefore proceed with your task at once, and God will protect and support you, though you may meet with opposition for a time, yet that shall shortly cease, and truth become triumphant as before portrayed unto thee, thus the Lord hath said, praised be his holy name.

On June 21st, 1862.—A portion of a banner was sketched by Spiritual Agency, when I supposed I was going to obtain a revelation, the words written thereon in large characters were—NEW JERUSALEM, with CHARITY and LOVE to the UNIVERSE, and immediately after the following Revelation was given:—

I, Gabriel, declare unto you that the banner represents the banner as shewn in a vision at the top of a church or temple as shewn in the Scriptural Magazine, portraying the new church that should be established, and which thou art commanded to prepare for the reception of that power which must be wielded therein, so that the world shall see and know of a truth that thou art the chosen of the Lord, plucked out from amongst the follies and vices of the world, and placed as a light shining out of darkness, as thou hast seen portrayed by an angelic power; and now, therefore, let the enrolling

book be headed thus: The Armies of Zion, with Charity and Love to the Universe. Then enroll thyself as their leader, and let the names of the Officers follow:

- 1st.— Captain of the first Legion
- 2nd.— " " Thousand
- 3rd.— " " Hundred
- 4th.— " " Fifty

and then let the chosen community or people follow with their children, enrolled indiscriminately until they reach fifty. Then let another leader or captain be appointed, and so continue, and they shall be re-named the twelve tribes of Israel, and shall be gathered out of all people's languages and tongues, so that it shall become a universal church, upon which shall be bestowed gifts as of old, so that its ministers shall heal the sick and administer comfort and consolation to those in need, and shall be miraculously gifted with that that shall enable them to overthrow every evil, which has raised itself in defiance of God's eternal will. And now, therefore, proceed with your task, and God will show who are the chosen ministers and messengers, who shall be sent forth to declare his words to the people, and as soon as funds become sufficient, start a periodical to be entitled the "Sword of Truth," and let it contain all things connected with the New Jerusalem, how it has been plucked out from amongst vice and immorality, and is now placed on the open ground to assist in the destruction of all that power which has raised itself up in defiance of God's will.

Thus will I bring thee O my people against them with the SWORD. Let it bear the motto of a flaming sword with a fire underneath, representing the fire of God's wrath, and let it be conducted by thee, so that it can contain everything directed to be shewn to the people—so that it may be spread far and wide and become a pioneer, to prepare the way for the armies of the Lord of hosts, and it shall cut down and consume all that is opposed to truth and righteousness; let it be started at one halfpenny, so that at the first or onset, the price may not be an hindrance to its spread, as it must extend throughout this country, and ultimately reach the most distant parts of the earth, wherein the people of thy nation have gone to dwell, and so establish the great change in the hearts of men by the truths it will contain, which shall strike into the hardest heart, and into the deepest recess of the mind, so that every structure set up in defiance of God's will therein, shall crumble with the dust, and truth reign triumphant in the hearts and minds of men, so that they shall sing

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace and good-will to men;
For Christ is come on earth again,
O'er his chosen flock to reign.

And their hallelujah's shall resound throughout the universe; therefore do not let the greatness of the task deter thee from thy duty, as thou shalt be assisted from on high by that power which has watched over thee hitherto, and conducted thee to this end through


the mazes of delusion and labyrinths of wood, iron, and stone, that thou mayest assist in their overthrow, and so establish truth on the ruins of truth and falsehood combined; therefore search diligently for the truth and thou shalt find it to the discomfiture of others, who have set themselves up in power which must be overthrown, as priestcraft must be abolished, with every evil my people endure, so that oppression shall cease to exist amongst them.

A question was then asked, is there any further instructions to be given, in answer to which the following was revealed:—

Follow out your former instruction, but read occasionally the vision in the Magazine, and the prophecies in the Warning Message, so that the people may see and know that a loving father watches over them, and will punish or reward according to their doings; thus my instruction endeth for the present, thus the Lord hath commanded.

Revelation June 23rd, 1862.—"I, Gabriel, am commanded to declare unto thee for thy guide and instruction, that thou shall capture and use in the defence of this town, the foes sent against it, and thus they shall meet in triumph a foe which drives them o'er their dead, and thus these spiritual foes of my people shall be driven from the land by the power I have raised up for the purpose, and shall triumph over every obstacle placed in their path; therefore do not let them extend beyond the present members who are now enrolled, and those who are still clinging to the tottering fabric called the Great Organization, and thus these foes shall prevail against the cause they are intended to overthrow; and though the struggle has been protracted, yet bloody will be the onslaught, but the foes shall prevail and scatter devastation on their track.

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.

The Scriptural Magazine, bound, 2s.; in numbers 1s. 6d., post free.

Charity, Rest, and Freedom; Second Edition, 1½d. each.

Christ's Mission to the Earth, 1½d. each.

Fulfilled Predictions, (published at 1s.) 3d. each.

Swedenborg and Smith, (published at 1s.) 3d. each.
Stamps for Postage according to numbers sent.

Community's Journal, Universal Magazine, at the former published prices.

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

Printed by S. E. HACKETT, Maypole Yard, Nottingham, and Sold wholesale and retail by T. C. Stretton.