

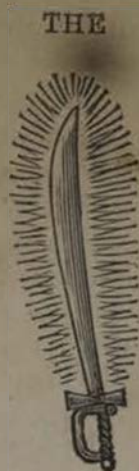
THE SWORD

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 3.—VOL. 1.]

For the week ending Saturday, September 20th, 1862.

[PRICE 1d.]

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

To the readers of the "Sword of Truth" we wish to say a few words, as many of them have seen the "Universal Magazine" last issued, and have no doubt read that bouncing challenge thrown out to us (who have left the ranks of the now Little Organization) to come to the Medium's house and compare all the revelations and prove them wrong if we can. We have no desire to prove revelation wrong; neither can that which is divine be overthrown, though we may not comprehend much that is given in a mysterious manner, and if Mr. B. thinks we want any of his pay for our time, especially on a Sunday, he is greatly mistaken, we advise him not to make such a boast, as we are well aware that his Circle and friends have sufficient before them to pay already, without paying us, and as soon as he has accepted or rejected the call made upon him and the members of the Circle in the public Market Place, as given in a written address, read June 22nd, 1862, in these words: "And therefore we are fully satisfied that he has defrauded the Organization to a fearful extent"; and we call on them to fully investigate these statements, by choosing from amongst themselves a few men whom they can fully rely on from the ranks of the Community, and let all letters be examined and all receipts from the localities, and let a thorough investigation take place, and we who have withdrawn will appoint others to be present, so that a full investigation may take place, and either prove the Medium's honesty or his fraud at once, before the people are robbed by him any more. I make this assertion fearlessly, and call on the members of the Organization to prove me wrong in this statement if they can, and if proved that I am wrong in the assertions I have made, I will publicly acknowledge the same. I now leave this subject to the serious consideration of the parties concerned, and again call on them to prove who is right and who is wrong!

so that as soon as the Circle and Medium have accepted or rejected publicly, this call upon them, (for it is they who must, as the heads of the cause, make the arrangements) then will we take into consideration the challenge thrown out to us in the "Universal Magazine"; but this, we consider, is a cunning way of trying to evade the point at issue, as we are as great, and yea, greater believers in divine revelation than those who charge us with a desire to overthrow it; it is that which is not divine that we object to, and which will be shewn as these pages progress. We are ready at any time to meet a number of the Community and Circle, first, to investigate the accounts and afterwards the revelations. —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.)

To fear the Lord is to serve Him in the true spirit of righteousness and truth, and to turn aside from the follies, vices, and vanities of the world; to stand erect and to hold forth true principles of charity, love, and affection towards all God's creatures, and not to hold forth doctrines or principles, gilded with eloquence, for the sake of ambition and a worldly name; nor to teach the people things which an upright and just conscience inwardly doubts and mistrusts; but to look around upon the vast and mighty creation, and study well the sacred

revelations which are contained in Holy Writ, respecting the principles and actions of Christ and His apostles; and ask thyself what church, what sect, or what creed, or what denomination follows out their examples; and thou wilt find that every sect or denomination holds forth that to the people which is oppressive to them, and displeasing to God; while they cover their professions with hypocrisy, contenting themselves to support eloquence of creed, or language in teaching; making the straight path, which should lead the people to happiness in this world, and glory in the world to come, beset with stumbling blocks, which can only be surmounted by contribution for the support of houses, or worship, which are polluted with hypocrisy; while the true followers of Christ walk humbly and submissively in the path of justice, feeling happiness in the benefits they are enabled, with God's assistance, to impart unto their neighbours; fearing and serving God with candid and becoming humility; acknowledging all His creatures as brethren in creation, which the one bountiful God has preserved, and Father of all; feeling inwardly what they outwardly profess; looking with compassion upon those whose positions, intellects, or capacities are inferior to to their own; scorning to live in idleness upon that which is produced by the sweat of their neighbours, without inconvenience or outlay to themselves;—and thus, by endeavouring to dwell in harmony in this world, by exhorting men to repentance from the above follies, that when the trammels of worldly life are laid aside, their spirits, through the Redeemer's blood, may speedily pass into everlasting rest and glory. Here then, is the foundation upon which those who build their faith upon the doctrines taught by the Great Redeemer whilst upon the earth, must rest; that, through their righteousness, God may judge them and reward them accordingly.

Knowing the sacred source from which the above was revealed, and feeling and knowing by experience the sacred and holy truths therein conveyed, I deemed it my duty to announce my intention at once to the church, and accordingly addressed the following letter to the minister (Mr. H.)

BURTON STREET, NOTTINGHAM, DEC. 1856.

Dear Sir,—I am engaged in a work which is contrary to the rules of the General Baptist Church, and contrary to what is taught by you, believing you to be in error in the present doctrines taught, as to eternal punishment; believing that Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man; and that all, after suffering according to the deeds done in the body, will ultimately reach eternal rest. I am now engaged in assisting with a work shewing the errors and corruptions of the New Testament in its present translated form; and believing that the time is close at hand when Christ shall descend with His holy angels, when He will establish His universal reign upon the earth, which will be brought about by the Almighty power of God; and, believing that all the present forms of religion are wrong, and that the religion which will be universally established is not yet in

existence; therefore I wish to be allowed to withdraw myself from the church at Stoney-street, as I cannot conscientiously belong to any sect or creed, believing them to be established on a wrong foundation, as the doctrines, as at present taught, are contrary to the will of God; the Scriptures having been so misconstrued and intentionally corrupted in their present form of translation, and thereby become so mystified that a man of common intellect cannot understand them; believing that it is the will of God that I should assist in bringing out a work which will expose the craft and wickedness of the translators of the New Testament in its present form; and, at the same time, that I should not be connected with any denomination, so that my mind may be free from all prejudice and early taught errors which I have hitherto believed; and, wishing you to understand that no sect or denomination is supported by the cause in which I am labouring; but am exerting myself solely for the glory of God, and the welfare of my fellow creatures; not for the sake of gaining a worldly name, or a wealthy, and idle position; believing that all those who have such objects in view will suffer the wrath of God in the coming calamities, which are about to be poured out upon the earth. I have no doubt you will be surprised at the present statements of my belief, but I am fully persuaded in my own mind that the time is much closer at hand than many people think for, when the calamities foretold by the ancient prophets, and portrayed in the vision displayed unto the apostle John, on the Isle of Patmos; I, therefore, shall feel obliged to you by bringing my case at once before the church, as the opinions of no man will alter my belief; hoping that you and all those with whom I have been connected, may speedily see your errors.

I remain yours sincerely,

Rev. H. H.

T. C. STRETTON

The result of this letter was, Mr. L., the other minister's, visit to me, as before described; and a few days after, on obtaining further spiritual instruction, I addressed the following letter to him, with other communications not necessary here to name.

BURTON STREET, NOTTINGHAM, DEC., 1856.

Dear Sir,—I, at the same time as I received the other communication here enclosed, asked a question concerning my name remaining as it stands in the church for the present, and I received such an answer as decided me that it was my duty to withdraw at once, believing it to be hypocrisy to remain a member of any society, when I am denouncing the doctrines they teach as errors; believing that God will punish hypocrisy in whatever form it may exist, I beg that you will take it before the next church meeting, if it is not done at once, I shall take the liberty to send or take it to the church meeting myself. Thanking you for the interest you appeared to take in my case, in wishing me to let it stand over for a short time longer, which no doubt was meant kindly on your part, but would have been injurious to the cause in which I am labouring, as it would

appear to the eyes of the world as though I was halting between two opinions, when it is not the case. I should feel happy to have granted your wish, but, after due consideration, cannot yield, as no alteration is likely to take place in my opinions it would be useless to let it remain any longer, as I have no doubt it would come to it at last, and why not do it now. It might appear right to us, but I believe it would not be right in the sight of God; and, it being a matter between me and God, I cannot yield to your wish; believing in the end you will not think any worse of me for being firm in what I believe the truth. I particularly wish you and the friends at Stoney-street to understand that I do not intend joining any other church in existence; believing that the General Baptist Church is nearer to the truth in the doctrines they teach than any other at present in existence, and shall always respect them. But, nevertheless, I believe them to be wrong, with all the denominations now in existence. I believe that Christ's church will be universal, and that there will be one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism; when men shall love the Lord their God with all their heart, and their neighbours as themselves; and that tyranny and oppression will be banished from the earth; when the apostles of Christ will again be gifted with the power of healing the sick, and opening the eyes of the blind, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the world; when the gospel shall be preached in its purity, fearlessly and faithfully, heeding not the scoffs and jeers of those whose interest it is to keep men in subjection and poverty, when all worldly power and ambition shall be scattered to the winds. Then shall that happy time spoken of in the Sacred Scriptures be fulfilled, when Christ shall have the heathen for His inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for His possession; then the nations shall learn war no more, but shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, and Christ shall reign triumphant from the rivers unto the ends of the earth. But before this can be accomplished those calamities foretold by the ancient and modern prophets must be fulfilled; when nation shall rise against nation, and men's hearts shall fail them for fear of that which is coming upon them. But the righteous shall look on with calmness and cry: Just and righteous is thy wisdom, Oh! Lord God, though marvellous and mysterious are its workings; I have seen thy goodness and experienced thy blessings, and praised be thy holy name. Hoping you may be amongst that number.

I remain yours sincerely,

Rev. J. L.

T. C. STRETTON.

Notwithstanding these letters and my own verbal assertions, in which I denounced and renounced all connexion with any sect or denomination, either Mormonism, Baptist, or any other religious association, knowing that our instructions forbid this on the part of those who pledge themselves to advocate the sacred cause of truth; yet notwithstanding all these assertions, at the annual church-meeting, held at the General

Baptist Chapel, Stoney-street, Nottingham, on Monday evening, January 26th, 1857, the very gentleman to whom this letter was addressed, and these assertions made, declared to the society at their meeting, in detriment to my character, that I had embraced the doctrines of Mormonism; and, to use his own expressions, "not only Mormonism, but half-a-dozen isms." And, now brethren, in duty to myself, and in justice to the sacred cause in which I am labouring, I feel bound to publicly deny that I am advocating Mormonism, or any other religious or political sect or society; but, on the contrary, we are endeavouring to shew forth the fallacy and hypocrisy upon which they are founded, by preparing the minds of the people for the coming change; and that, although Mr. Hollyoake's name is attached to the works we are circulating, he has nothing whatever to do with them, but is merely the wholesale agent, the works being printed in Nottingham. And that all earnest seekers after truth may be convinced of the erroneous assertions which the opposers of truth and justice have set forth concerning the Divine Revelations, which we have been commanded to spread, I particularly recommend all unprejudiced and free thinking persons, who desire truth for their guide, to peruse the "Warning Message," in which the terrible calamities, which must precede the universal church of Christ, are duly foretold; also the "Scriptural Magazine," a work devoted to the welfare of all God's creatures, shewing them the straight way to true Christian worship, by pointing out the errors and giving the truthful interpretation of all the mystic passages in the New Testament. Therefore, having now shewn that it was the fear of my letters not having been brought before the church, coupled with the defence of my own character, and the truth of the cause which I feel I have been called, by the grace of God, to advocate, are the causes of my publishing this pamphlet, to be distributed gratuitously amongst the members and congregation of the Baptist Church; and, praying Almighty God to pour down His blessing, with the light of heaven, upon all men.

I subscribe myself

T. C. STRETTON,

A lover of Justice; the defender of truth; and a detester of Hypocrisy!

There is one remark made in this pamphlet which requires explanation, in reference to the works being printed in Nottingham, lest it should be misunderstood, several of the first numbers of "The Warning Message" were printed in Nottingham, and the remainder was published by an attorney, at his expense, in London; "The Scriptural Magazine" was all printed in Nottingham, at my expense; after this work was published and brought before the world, a revelation was obtained by the Medium, ordering a journal to be printed, entitled "The Community's Journal; or Standard of Truth," it was ordered to be commenced, and advertisements sought for the last page, to assist in publishing it, and this was not done, I had not the opportunity to do so, as I had

(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 before us a spiritual warfare, in which your faith will be put to the test, and where all those who cannot put their trust in the guidance of God's holy angels will be liable to fall, as a spiritual power is now at work in the minds of men, and the good is struggling to overthrow the evil that has hitherto existed amongst us whilst a people being prepared for the reception of truth and righteousness; and God is now cleansing his people from sin and unrighteousness, as portrayed in the prophecies in the "Warning Message," and therefore during this purification and cleansing from evil it is necessary that ye be warned to be faithful, for it is the faithful only who will be able to stand the test. Therefore, watch and pray, so that though the evil may come upon you, ye may be steadfast in the faith once delivered to the apostles of old. But now, through the corruption the Scriptures has undergone, by erring men, it has become necessary that it be again revealed in its purity, by God's holy angels, so that we, His people, may be guided aright; and hence, to us is given the work of bringing mankind back to that state, from which they had fallen, in early ages, and also to restore the pure gospel truths as given to Christ's apostles. Then let us endeavour to be like Paul of old, labour unceasingly and incessantly in the cause of God, and not be led away by the devices of men, and let us shew that we are truly a chosen people, by laying aside every vice, and setting before the people an example worthy of their imitation, at the same time remembering that we have another task to perform that is the overthrow of every evil and establishing truth on the ruins thereof, such is the task before us, and let us do it as fearlessly as Christ cast out of the temple men who made merchandise of God's house and people.

For the information of our readers we shall continue to insert the revelations as given for our guide and instruction, by the angel of the Lord, so that it may be seen that it is through their instrumentality that the New Jerusalem is established, and the people being enrolled with their children who constitute the armies of the Lord of Hosts, who are now organized and enrolled with their captains, and thus the spiritual warfare has begun and will continue until every evil is eradicated from amongst that portion of God's chosen people, who are now under a cloud of darkness, which will shortly be dispersed, and the great light now descending to the earth, to those already plucked out from those who have disobeyed God's counsels, given as their guide, will be seen also by them who are still under that canopy of darkness and gloom.

Revelation given June 23rd, 1862, in answer to a question asked as to whom we should appoint as captains of the armies of the Lord of Hosts.—"Let all who have received instruction before time, as given by the

celestial angels, appointed as their guardians, bring their instruction with them, and thou shalt seek for instruction on their behalf, so that the leaders shall be appointed by Him who ruleth all things by His almighty power, as portrayed unto thee in former prophecies, wherein it declares that 'I will appoint leaders over them in the days of the nation's troubles.' And now thou mayest see to what end thou hast lived, and the work thou hast before thee, therefore buckle on the armour of righteousness, and declare to the people all things thou hast received by command from on high, at the earliest opportunity; and continue the exposure as before laid down for thy guide, and thou wilt find that a loving father is watching over thee and will guide thee on to thy prosperity, to the discomfiture of those who wills the harm. Thus I am commanded to declare in the name of the everliving and true God."

June 23rd, 1862. Further instruction as revealed for our guide.—"Let books be bought at once for keeping the accounts, and let a secretary be appointed to keep them, as you will find sufficient to employ thy mind, without troubling with these affairs, but let all things connected with the cause remain under thy care, and thou must remain treasurer, as at first requested by those who are now members of the church of Christ; and one shall be bought for the enrolling of the names, and let it at once be prepared so that thou wilt have time to attend to other things of more importance for the world at large; therefore, let the enrolling be done by him who was appointed heretofore in the Great Organization, so that it may be seen that thou art a chosen people plucked out from the midst of vice and placed on the open ground to assist in the destruction of that power which has raised itself up in defiance of my will laid down as a guide unto them. Therefore, let this be a warning to all future generations of men, and thou shalt publish all particulars concerning it, in words given thee from on high to speak to the people; so be prepared for the task will be great, but the result glorious."

NOTICE!—Agents wanted for the sale of this paper, which will be sent post free, when half-a-dozen are ordered, to any part of the United Kingdom. The regular periodical profits allowed to book-sellers, and others, who desire it. We thank those who have already offered to sell it without any profits and wish them success in their undertaking.

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