

What The New Church Teaches

By the Rev. James Frederick Buss 1897

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE following chapters were originally written for, and published in, The New Church Magazine as a series of articles, during the year 1896, and would have been long since laid before the public in book form, but for my prolonged illness. And now that they are re-published, the same cause prevents me subjecting them to the revision of which I am only too well aware they stand in need, and even from reading the sheets for the press. This work has been performed for me by my very dear and esteemed friend, and brother Minister in the LORD'S New Church, the REV. WILLIAM ALFRED PRESLAND; whose kindness in this matter I desire to hereby gladly and gratefully acknowledge.

Should my health be restored, I hope to follow this little work up with further series, seeing forth others of the heavenly doctrines the New Church teaches.

JAMES FREDERICK BUSS.

R. M. S. GOTHIC, Off the North-west Court of Africa, approaching Teneriffe, 3rd November, 1897.

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I. What the New Church is.

It is of the first importance to a true understanding of this subject, that it should be known that the "New Church" is not in any sense a sect, or "denomination," of the recognized Christianity of the day. On the contrary, it stands to that Christianity, in all its "denominations," as a thing outside; its relation to it being precisely analogous to the relation in which the Christian Church, when originally instituted by the Lord and His Apostles, stood to the Jewish Church of the time of the First Coming of the Lord. In a word, just as the primitive Christian Church was the Church of the new dispensation of the religion and of the religious life of humanity then beginning, so "New Church" of today is the Church of a new in the religious dispensation, or age, now dawning in the world.

It is plain, therefore, that the real nature New Church cannot be fully grasped without some adequate understanding of what is meant by a religious "dispensation," or age.

No one acquainted with the Word of God can be unaware, that, even in its most superficial sense, it affords indisputable proof of the existence, in the life of the human race of at least two successive, different and radically distinct dispensations" of religion - the Jewish and the Christian. Both of these were of Divine institution in the beginning. The first, however, that is, the Jewish, was characteristically a religion of rites and ceremonies, containing the mere "shadows," or types, of the "good things," or genuine spiritual truths and excellences, which were "to come," but which "came" only when the Christian Dispensation was inaugurated by the Lord at His Coming - and not those "good things" themselves (Heb. x. i). It is an equally certain teaching of the Divine Word, that the Church of the Jewish Dispensation at length became utterly corrupt, "transgressing the commandment of God" (Matthew 15:3) and making His Word "of none effect" (Mark 7:13) by its "traditions," and "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). We know, too, that our Lord Himself, in explaining His parable of "the wicked husbandmen," in which even the Jews perceived that "He spake of them" (Matthew 21:45), told them plainly that "the kingdom of God" should be taken away from them, and "given to a nation bringing forth the fruits there of" (Matthew 21:43). It is matter of history that the "nation" to whom the "kingdom of God" was given when taken away from the Jews, was the despised Gentile world, and that the transfer of "the kingdom" to them constituted the inauguration of a new age, or dispensation, of religion, which has been named the "Christian Era," and the Church of which is the historic Christian Church.

But even the Jewish, was not the first dispensation of revealed religion. The letter of the Divine Word does not, it is true, afford very much or very direct evidence, on its surface, of the existence of former dispensations. Still, there is evidence; and evidence, moreover, the purport of which, when once observed, is unmistakable. It is well known that, when Jehovah instituted the Jewish Dispensation of religion, He incorporated into it certain rituals which were already practiced among some of the nations of that day. Conspicuous among these stand forth worship by burnt-offerings and sacrifices upon altars, and circumcision. Now, it cannot be conceived, that, in a religion of Divine institution and prescription - as all who admit the testimony of the Scriptures are bound to acknowledge the Jewish to have been - anything would be introduced which did not, at least originally, possess a Divine sanction, even though it had suffered perversion in the hands of sinful men. It is clear, therefore, that there existed a religious dispensation prior to the Jewish Dispensation; some of the features of which - for instance, the system of worship by burnt offerings and sacrifices upon altars - were so emphatically

stamped with the Divine approval, that they were, as it were, saved from the general wreck, and wrought into the fabric of the new dispensation, then being Divinely instituted.

Another point bearing very closely upon the present question, is the fact that the exterminating zeal of the Jews - which was permitted to them, evidently, as having vital consequences in relation to the new dispensation then being established among them - was always enjoined to be directed supremely against the idolatrous sacrifices, the gods and the high places, in a word, against the worship and religion of the nations they dispossessed. All centered on that; and, thus, everything points to the abolition of a dispensation of religion which once had Divine sanctions, but which had, in process of time - of course, through the corruptions introduced into it in successive generations by the wickedness of men - become "an abomination in the sight of the Lord," as the great object of the Divine concern in this period and these features of Israelitish history. From these considerations it is evident, firstly, that there was a dispensation of religion, having originally a Divine basis, prior to the Jewish; and, secondly, that this earlier dispensation shared with the Jewish, the characteristic feature of worshipping by means of burnt-offerings and sacrifices upon altars.

Now, it is a remarkable fact, that the first mention of burnt-offerings and altars in the Divine Word, occurs in the very first act of worship performed in that new era of human affairs, which commenced when the terrible spiritual catastrophe, signified by "the Flood," had done its work of sweeping away the corrupt dregs of a yet earlier dispensation:

"And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD, and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl and offered burnt-offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled the sweet savor; and the Lord said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake: for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite every living thing as I have done" (Gen. viii. 20, 21). The new era, or dispensation, of religion which dates from Noah, in the inauguration of which, worship by means of burnt-offerings and sacrifices, finds its first mention in Holy Writ, may then be appropriately named the "Noatic" Dispensation; and in the doctrines of the New Church it is so designated.

Having come so far with us, no one will have any difficulty, or, we should suppose, any hesitation, in discerning and acknowledging in the Sacred Record of the state of things which preceded "the Flood," indications of a still earlier "dispensation" of religion, inaugurated in "Eden," and having as its central and typical character, "Adam;" from whom the dispensation itself may be called - as, indeed, it is called in the doctrines of the New Church - the "Adamic." The "Adamic" dispensation, however, is evidently placed before us in the pages of Divine Revelation as the first.

This review, then, places before us four distinct religious Ages, or Dispensations, as having succeeded one another in the course of the history of the human race.

1. The Most Ancient Dispensation, which may be fitly termed the "Adamic Age;"
2. A less Ancient Dispensation, better referred to as "The Ancient," which may be fitly termed the "Noatic Age;"
3. The "Jewish" Dispensation, or Age; and
4. The "Christian" Dispensation, or Age.

It is to be noted, also, that under each of the three first of these Dispensations religion became in process of time utterly perverted and corrupted, and that therefore the dispensation itself, in each case, was Divinely wound up, by some great Divine judgment. In each case, also, a new dispensation was immediately inaugurated in the place of the former one. It has been commonly taken for granted that the fourth Dispensation, the Christian, inaugurated by the Lord and His Apostles, was to be a finality, and, so far from ever becoming corrupt and adulterated, so as to call forth Divine judgment upon it and be wound up in its turn, as its predecessors had been, was to advance to greater and greater perfection with the lapse of the ages. Yet, this opinion runs directly counter to the plain predictions of our Lord Himself! Did He not say: "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8), declaring, in that manner, that He should not? He declared again, "Because INIQUITY SHALL ABOUND the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12); and again, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For, as in the days that were before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered in the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37-39); and yet again: "Then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened (Matthew 24:21, 22). Nay, not only did the Divine Founder of Christianity, at the very outset of the Christian Dispensation, predict, thus plainly and repeatedly, that, in spiritual matters - which are the province of the Church - things in that Dispensation would go from bad to worse, and at length reach an intolerable worst, which would call for peremptory termination; but the very phrase, "the consummation of the age"--wrongly translated the "end of the world," the true translation, being relegated, even in the Revised Version, to the margin, see Matthew 13:39, 49; 24, 3; 28, 20, R. V.--which so frequently issued from His lips, in plain allusion to a future event, is conclusive proof that He foreknew that the fourth Dispensation, like its predecessors, would gradually corrupt its way upon the earth until it would reach a pass of degradation only to be paralleled by "the days that were before the flood"; and, for that reason, also would have to be brought to an end, and finally wound up, or "consummated."

That "consummation," moreover, is plainly associated with "the coming of the Son of Man." It is significant, too, that the final words of parting addressed by our Lord to His disciples, in which He promised to abide with His Christian Church, were expressly limited by this very period of its "consummation": "Lo, I am with you always, UNTIL the consummation of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

But this "consummation" of the Christian "Age," or Dispensation, was no more to be the end of all things, than were the "consummations" of the former Dispensations. As in those cases, so in this last, the "consummation" was to be followed by a new start. So the analogy of Sacred History would lead us to conclude; and so an intelligent interpretation of the prophetic closing Book of the New Testament, shows.

In the twenty-first chapter of that Divine Book, we read of a certain "city" which John saw "coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2); and, later on in the same chapter, we have further information concerning this bride-city, and who her "Husband" was: "And there came unto me one of the seven angels, which had the seven vials full of the

seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the Bride, the Lamb's Wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God" (verses 9-11).

The Apocalyptic city, "the holy Jerusalem," therefore, is revealed to us as being the "Bride" and "Wife" of "the Lamb"; and her "Husband," it follows, is "the Lamb"--unquestionably, the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), or, the Lord God the Savior Jesus Christ.

It is universally recognized by students of the Divine Word, that the Church is the spiritual mother of the members of the Church, and God their Heavenly Father; and, in this is involved the further recognition - likewise conceded-that God is the Divine "Husband" of His Church, and the Church the spiritual "Wife" of God. These recognitions, also, are in strict agreement with, and have doubtless been derived from, the usage of the Holy Word. The prophetic fiftieth chapter of Isaiah commences: "Thus said the Lord: Where is the bill of YOUR MOTHER'S divorcement, WHOM I HAVE PUT AWAY? or, which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves; and for your transgressions is your mother put away" (verse i). It is abundantly clear, that the "mother" of the Jewish nation, in her separation from Jehovah on account of the "transgressions" of her backsliding children, is here presented to us as Jehovah's wife, for it is only a "husband" that could "put away" a wife; and Jehovah, consequently, as her "Husband." And every implication of the Divine address to the faithless Jews, points to the alienated Church among that people, as the thing signified by their "mother" and Jehovah's divorced "wife."

In the spiritual family of the Lord, therefore - His Church, and the members of the Church - the Lord is the "Husband" and "Father," the Church is the "Wife" and "Mother," and the members of the Church are the children.

Between Isaiah and Revelation, however, there is significant difference. In the prophecy in Isaiah, the "Husband" is the, as yet; un-incarnated Jehovah; the "Wife" is the Jewish Church; and the children are the members of that Church, the Jewish people. In the prophecy in the Revelation, the "Husband" is "the Lamb," the incarnated Jehovah; the "Wife" is evidently a Christian Church; and the children that would certainly spring from the marriage are individual genuine Christians.

We conclude, therefore, from these considerations, as well as from several others of a similar tendency, that the "New Jerusalem" spoken of and described in detail, in the concluding chapters of the Book of the Revelation as a "city," but expressly revealed to be the "Wife" of "the Lamb," is, in reality, a Christian Church. However startling the conclusion, there seems to be no getting away from it, by anyone who candidly investigates, and endeavors to understand the Divine Word in its own light.

Another point of great moment is, that the Christian Church signified by the "New Jerusalem," cannot be the Christian Church founded by the personal labors of our Lord and His Apostles in supersession of the Jewish.

For, that was established; that had "come," and was probably half a century old when the Book of the Revelation was given; whereas, that which John saw, he saw "coming down from God out of heaven." Moreover, what he saw was not seen in external, accomplished fact, but in prophetic vision. The Christian Church of John's vision and Book, therefore, was a future one, which should share with its

predecessor the quality of being Christian, just as the Jewish shared with its predecessor a representative sacrificial worship; but which, still, should follow after it, even as the Jewish followed after the Church of the "Noatic" Dispensation. We have already seen how clearly our Lord foresaw and foretold that a "consummation" awaited the Christian Dispensation, or "Age." We see now, that, under the imagery of the "holy city, New Jerusalem," He was really predicting a future Christian Church, whose spiritual perfections and riches are, of course, signified and represented by the glories and wealth of the "city." He taught that the Church of the Christian Dispensation, which He personally inaugurated at His first coming, would go from bad to worse, until there should be "no faith" left, "iniquity should abound," and "love wax cold," and that finally He would cease to be with it (Matthew 28:20). How irresistible the conclusion, then, that the glorious future Church described as the "New Jerusalem," is the Christian Church of a "new age, or dispensation, a fitting name for which is the "New Jerusalem Dispensation," or, the "Second Christian Dispensation!"

It is as the Church of this new, or Second Christian Dispensation, that the New Church stands forth in the world.

This may seem, at first hearing, a presumptuous and arrogant claim. In dealing with this objection, let us suggest, at the outset, that no claim can properly be called either presumptuous or arrogant, which is a just one. The question to be determined, therefore, is whether the claim is a just one. If it is, then it must be conceded; and arrogance and presumption are not in question. Let us, therefore, examine it.

We have taken the position that the New Church is the Church represented and signified by the "holy city, New Jerusalem." Can this be proved to be the case? We premise that it can; and, further, that there is no Church in existence, Christian or other, beside the New Church, which would even claim to be the "New Jerusalem," when it is seen what that implies.

The New Jerusalem is the Bride and Wife of the LAMB. This, as we have seen, is what proves it to be a Church, and, moreover, a Christian Church; for the "Lamb's" Wife is a Church that acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as her Divine Husband. But the Husband of a Church is her God. The "Lamb's Wife," therefore, must acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as her God. No Church that does not do this, can possibly be the Lamb's Wife. With this, no doubt, all will agree.

Now, let us proceed a step farther.

How many husbands may a pure wife, under the Christian religion, have? Of course, one; and only one. And how many Gods may a true Church have? Again, one; and only one. The "Bride, the Lamb's Wife," as a true Christian Church, therefore, since a Church's "Husband" is her God, will have one God; and one God only; and that God, "the Lamb," the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To her the Lord Jesus Christ is not merely God, but the only God. To her the Lord Jesus Christ, and He alone, has "ALL power in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). To her the bare mention of any other God outside Him, or in any way or sense distinct from Him, is intolerable in the last degree; just as the very idea of more than one husband is intolerable to a pure-minded wife. Even more so, indeed. The Divine Trinity, even, can only be acknowledged by "the Lamb's Wife" as centered in the ONE Divine Person of the Lord Jesus Christ: "the Father" in Him (John 14:10), "the Holy Spirit" passing forth from Him (John 20:22); in fact, for her, "In Him dwelleth ALL THE FULNESS of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9), in the most absolute and unequivocal sense; so that outside Him there is no God and nothing of Godhead.

These characteristics must appeal, we think, to every unbiased and rational mind, as necessarily involved in the quality of a Church which is, in any real sense, the Lamb's Wife." That appellation must imply all that we have set down - and much more to the same purpose - or the words be mere words, carrying no burden of real significance.

This admitted, and it being known - as will be subsequently shown to be the case-that the doctrinal position of the New Church, in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ, her Divine Husband, is exactly what we have shown to be involved in a Church being "the Lamb's Wife," it is clear, beyond cavil, that the New Church has strong *prima facie* grounds on which to base its claim to be the Church of the New Jerusalem, or second Christian Dispensation. Nor is there any other Church in the world that will even make the claim, or wish to make it: that is to say, there is no other Church in Christendom which will acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ, "the Lamb," to be the only God, and thus its sole and true Husband. Yet this truth is the great central and pivotal doctrine of the New Christian Age. The First Christian Age, even in its state of integrity, only partially, and, "as in a glass darkly," recognized this great truth - yet in its own way it did so; but, in the days of its decadence and perversion, it has, by its doctrine of a Trinity of Persons, each of whom "singly and by Himself is God," committed spiritual polyandry, and removed itself entirely out of the glorious position of "the Bride, the Lamb's Wife." So much is this the case, that it does not even desire to occupy that honorable and blessed position in very truth. To all true lovers of the Lord Jesus Christ, this must needs be a lamentable state of things; the most striking proof that the "consummation" of the First Christian Age has really come, and that the time has indeed arrived for the establishment of a New Dispensation, in which the rightful and sole sovereignty of the Lord God the Savior Jesus Christ shall be acknowledged in the hearts and minds of Christians, and proclaimed in the doctrines and worship of a true Christian Church.

In conclusion: in inaugurating a New Dispensation of Religion, the Lord never leaves the matter to the gropings of the human mind; in every such case, He sets things going Himself by sending the new "Age" a message from Him specially addressed to itself and adapted to its needs; and raising up, of course, a special messenger for the purpose. He inaugurated the Jewish Dispensation by the giving of the Divine Word of the Old Testament, which we possess, to the Jews, through Moses and the Prophets, and raising up a Church on that as a basis. He inaugurated the Christian Age by giving, first from His own Divine Human mouth, and afterwards through inspired penmen, our Word of the New Testament, and raising up a Church on that as its basis. In both these Revelations, however, God spoke to men in "parable" (see Psalm 78, 2, etc.); thus in veiling an inwardly spiritual message in an outwardly natural form, which, while allowing a sufficiency of spiritual truth for the needs of those two "ages" to shine through "chinks," as it were, in its literal sense - indeed, as much as ever they were able to "bear" (see John 16:12)--still left many dark places unilluminated and hard sayings unsolved, which are, it is well known, pressing heavily upon the minds of men at this day for solution and illumination.

He promised, before He left the world, however, that, at the future time when men came to be able to bear the "many things" He had "still" to "say to them" (John 16:12), He would not speak "in parables," but would "show them plainly of the Father" (John 16:25). And, in inaugurating the present new Age, He has redeemed that promise; He has now given to the world an entire body of spiritual rational doctrine, by which they may, if they choose, enter understandingly into the things of faith; He has revealed the spiritual, or interior sense of His Word in both Testaments, and, by that means, shown it radiant with the light of spiritual truth in every page and verse of its letter, and thus "fulfilled" His

Holy Word for all who will; and on this Divine basis He is now raising up His "New Church"--the Church of the New Dispensation - whose solemn duty it is to proclaim to men the Gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ alone reigneth, "whether they will hear or whether they will forbear" (Ezekiel 2:5). That duty she is now and hereby laboring to perform. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" (Revelation 2:7).

II. The Lord's Second Coming.

THE Coming of the Lord and the "Consummation of the Age" are mentioned in the Gospels in such close association as to appear, if not identically the same event, events, at the least, intimately related to one another. Thus, the Lord's extended prophecy respecting His future Coming, its antecedents and its consequences, which occupies the whole of the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, is given as His response to the demand of the disciples: "What shall be the sign of Thy coming AND of the consummation of the age?" (ver. 3). And in it, after describing at length the signs of the approach of the "Consummation of the Age" and the consummation itself, inverses 4 to 28, the Lord continues: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (ver. 30).

In showing, in our former paper, that the New Church is the Church of the New, or Second Christian Dispensation, which has now commenced, we necessarily implied that the "consummation" of the First Christian Dispensation is an already accomplished fact.

It is, in truth, the consummation of that Dispensation which has led to, and necessitated, the inauguration of the Second, or present one.

Now, it is characteristic of the "ages," or dispensations of religion which have so far appeared, that they are uniformly inaugurated by a Coming of the Lord. That this was so in the case of the First Christian Dispensation is universally known to be the teaching of the New Testament Scriptures, and generally acknowledged to be the truth. That it was so, likewise, in the case of the Jewish Dispensation, is equally true and perfectly demonstrable from the Old Testament Scriptures; but as it is not, we think, generally known, for lack of being noticed, it will be necessary for us to show that this is so. The first portion, in point of time, of the Old Testament or Jewish Scriptures, was the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments, which was. spoken by God (Exodus 20, i) from the top of Mount Sinai. It would seem a fair inference, that, since God spoke these words from Sinai, He must have been on Sinai to do it; and, since Sinai is in this world, that He must have "come" into the world, on this occasion, for the purpose of giving this first Revelation of His Word. Nor is this an inference only. It is expressly so represented in the Holy Word itself. For, "Jehovah said unto Moses, Lo, I COME UNTO THEE in a thick cloud....

The third day Jehovah WILL COME DOWN in the sight of all the people UPON MOUNT SINAI. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp TO MEET WITH GOD; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.... And Jehovah CAME DOWN UPON MOUNT SINAI, on the top of the mount.... And God spake all these words" (Exodus 19:9, 11 17, 20; 20, 1. The inauguration of the Jewish Dispensation, therefore, was effected by what is explicitly and repeatedly spoken of in the Divine Word, as the "coming" of God upon Mount Sinai; and that "coming" was accompanied by the giving of the first portion of that Divine Revelation which is the "Word of God" and which we now possess in its entirety. It is true that this "coming" of the Lord was not a "coming" in persona. This, indeed, is expressly set forth in the same Scriptures: "Ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds and thick darkness. And Jehovah spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the VOICE OF THE WORDS, but saw NO SIMILITUDE; ONLY A VOICE. And He declared unto you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, ten commandments.... Take ye, therefore, good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw NO MANNER OF

SIMILITUDE on the day that Jehovah spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire" (Deuteronomy 4:11-13, 15).

And that Moses himself was not different from the people generally in these respects, but that he, likewise, "heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only a voice," is indisputable from his prayer at a later date: "I beseech Thee, SHEW ME Thy glory" (Exodus 33:18), and from the way in which it was answered. The reason is plain. It is because there was "no manner of similitude," to be seen. Yet, if we accept the testimony of the Scriptures, it was truly, emphatically and unequivocally a "coming of the Lord." It was a real "coming" though not a personal one; and it was signalized by the giving of the first fruits of that most stupendous of all God's gifts to men, His own Holy Word.

It is plain, therefore, that the two previous historic Dispensations of religion, the Jewish and the First Christian, have both been inaugurated by a "coming of the Lord"--one a personal coming, the other not; and each has been attended by a giving of the Word - in the one case, the Word of the Old Testament, in the other the Word of the New; on which special and distinctive Word," or Revelation, the Church of the New Dispensation, in each case, has been established.

These facts cannot be without their significance in connection with the New Christian Dispensation now taking the place of the "consummated" First Christian one. In turning our attention, therefore, to the coming" which the Lord foretold that He would make at the "consummation" of that "age" which He personally initiated when in the world, we note that the analogy of Scripture history peremptorily requires us to look for it in association with the beginning of a New Age;

to look, also, for a Revelation of the Divine Truth from the Lord as a necessary feature and sign of it, and for a New Church based upon such distinctive Revelation as one of its results.

The suggestion that any further Revelation of Divine Truth than we have in the Word of God we possess, is to be looked for, is not one, we are aware, that will find a general or ready acceptance. For the assumption reigns unquestioned in the minds of most people, that we have, in that, all that the Lord had to reveal to men. But to this assumption there are two very cogent objections. The first is, that the Jews reject the New Testament as the Word of God on precisely similar grounds; the validity of which, however, in that case, Christians, of course, decline to admit. Consistency plainly dictates, therefore, that an objection, the validity of which is repudiated when urged by the Jews against a revelation supplementary to theirs, cannot be valid, either, when urged by Christians against the possibility of there being given a Revelation supplementary to theirs! Every impartial and rational mind will admit this. The second objection, is, that the assumption in question runs directly counter to the express teaching of our Lord Himself. Towards the close of His life-work on earth, He said to His disciples: "I HAVE YET MANY THINGS TO SAY UNTO YOU, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12).

So far, therefore, was the Lord from giving any ground for the idea that He had revealed at His First Coming all He had to reveal, and that, consequently, men must not look for more, that He expressly assured His disciples that the contrary of this was the truth, namely, that He had "many things" yet to communicate, which He only withheld from them, then, because they were unable to receive more than He had already given. Nor is this statement a mere intimation that something was being withheld; it is the clearest possible intimation that the withholding was for a time only, and that when men should be "able to bear" the further and fuller Revelation of which He speaks, such further and fuller

Revelation would surely be forthcoming.

Not only did our Lord thus plainly teach His disciples to expect such a future Revelation as the majority of Christians are agreed in rejecting, in advance, as impossible; but He also, in the same address, told them something as to the nature, or form, of that Revelation when it should come. His words are: "THESE THINGS have I spoken unto you IN PARABLES: the hour cometh when I shall NO MORE speak unto you in parables, but I shall show you PLAINLY of the Father" (John 16:25). In this respect, "these things" which the Lord had just previously spoken, were in the same category as all His other utterances, and thus with the whole of the New Testament: "Without a parable spake He not unto them" (Matthew 13:34);

"It is THE SPIRIT that quickeneth; THE FLESH profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, THEY ARE SPIRIT and they are life" (John 6:63). The "flesh" of the Lord's "words," is, evidently, their outward literal sense; the "spirit and life," their inward spiritual meaning. The utterances in question were in the same category, too, in this respect, as the Old Testament Scriptures; for it is written: "I will open My mouth IN A PARABLE; I will utter dark sayings of old" (Psalm 78, 2); after which preamble, there follows a comprehensive summary, as everyone may see, of Israelitish history. The whole of the Divine Word, in brief, in both Testaments, is of the nature of "parable"; and, consequently, its true and essential meaning can be found, not on the surface, or in the "plain," simple, grammatical meaning of the words used-in which meaning the matters treated of are largely, and in the Old Testament mainly, natural and worldly-but below the surface, in a spiritual sense, in which spiritual subjects are the exclusive theme. Not so, however, the Lord teaches, with His future Revelation: "The hour cometh when I shall NO MORE speak unto you IN PARABLES, but I shall show you PLAINLY of the Father." The antithesis, here, between speaking in "parables" and speaking "plainly," is so obvious, that nothing more is needed than simply to point it out. The teaching, too, is unmistakable. His future Revelation would not be couched in the language of "parable" but in the language of ordinary human intercourse; a circumstance differentiating it entirely, in nature and form - NOT in authority - from His already given Word.

It is a noteworthy fact in connection with the subject of the Coming of the Lord," that the nature of His First Coming was not at all understood until it actually came to pass, and was then understood only in the light of the Revelation given at that Coming. In other words, the Messianic advent of f wish expectation, was a totally different thing from the Messianic Coming of actual Divine fact; and only those ever arrived at a true understanding of its real nature, who accepted the Christian Revelation and learned the truth from that. Going upon analogy, which, in this case, is strong probability, we are, therefore, entitled to expect, firstly, that the nature of the Lord's Second Coming will prove to be different from the expectations respecting it, formed beforehand by Christians, and, secondly, that it will not be truly understood apart from the distinctive Revelation of Divine Truth, which, as we have seen, the Lord taught His disciples to expect to accompany it. For the true nature of the Lord's First Coming, men have had to go to the Christian Revelation, or New Testament, on which the Church of the Christian Dispensation was built up. For the true nature of the Lord's Second Coming, it is in the highest degree probable, to say the least, that men will have to go to the Revelation given by the Lord at that Coming, and on which the Church of the New Christian Dispensation is to be built up.

That Church is already in the world.

Part of its work is to emphasize the essentially parabolic character of the Word of the Lord, as taught by that Word itself, and to insist upon a parabolic interpretation of it, as the only one by which its real, substantial meaning can be arrived at. Its literal statements may accord with actual historical and scientific fact and express genuine truth; and, to a great extent, perhaps for the most part, they do so. Still, it is a notorious fact, that in many instances they do not; and these instances have been made the ground of attack upon the Scriptures as being the Word of God at all, for generations. But, since they are parable, the accuracy, or otherwise, of their literal form is an entirely subordinate matter: "The flesh profiteth nothing;" the real meaning must lie within: "It is the spirit that quickeneth. The words that I speak unto you they are spirit." The parabolic principle of interpretation, therefore, is indispensable to an understanding of their real and essential meaning. By the application of this principle, we were enabled, in our last paper, to identify the New Church with the "New Jerusalem" of Apocalyptic prophecy; and by the application of this same principle, we shall be able to know the true meaning of the prophecies respecting the Second Coming of the Lord, and, consequently, the real nature of that event.

A word must be here said, however, respecting the further Revelation of Divine Truth, which we have already seen, the Lord promised His disciples that He would give, and on which the Church of the New Dispensation must be built up.

As that Church is in the world, our readers will be prepared to learn that it possesses what it believes to be that further and fuller Revelation of which we have spoken. This is the case. The New Church is the possessor, or custodian, of a complete library of Spiritual, Doctrinal and Expository literature, which it speaks of as, "The Writings of the New Church," or, briefly, "The Writings;" which claim to have been given by the Lord through a specially prepared servant of His, named Emanuel Swedenborg, about a century and a half ago. This is the Revelation on which the Church of the New Dispensation is being, and is to be, built up by the Lord, with the co-operation of men. The statement of these Writings themselves on the matter is "Since the Lord cannot manifest Himself in person [to the world] (which has just been shown to be impossible), and yet He has foretold that He would come and establish a New Church, which is the New Jerusalem, it follows that He will effect this by the instrumentality of a man who is able not only to receive the doctrines of that Church in his understanding, but also to make them known by the press. That the Lord manifested Himself before me, His servant, that He sent me on this office, and afterwards opened the sight of my spirit, and thus let me into the spiritual world, permitting me to see the heavens and the hells and to converse with angels and spirits, and this now continually for many years, I ATTEST IN TRUTH; and, further, that, from the first day of this Call, I have never received anything relating to the doctrines of that Church from any angel, but FROM THE LORD ALONE while I have been reading the Word" (True Christian Religion, no. 779).

We will just remark, in passing, that, great though these claims undoubtedly are, the things asserted are exactly the credentials that we should, from the analogy of the case of the inspired penmen of the Holy Word, expect any man who was the instrument of a real Revelation of Divine truth from the Lord, to bring with him. So far from being an objection to his claim to be the instrument of such a Revelation, therefore, they ought to be regarded, rather, as, so far, an evidence in favor of it. A full consideration of these points, however, we must leave to a subsequent occasion. We are concerned to point out, here, one fact which is, so far as it goes, certainly corroborative of the claim that we have in

these Writings that further and fuller Revelation which the Lord so clearly not merely foreshadowed but promised. It is, that these Writings are not in the form of "parable," as is the Divine Word of the Old and New Testaments, but in the ordinary language of every-day human life. They thus show men "plainly" of the Father, and of the Divine and spiritual things which are from Him. Their meaning lies on the surface; and we are not under the necessity of going beneath the surface, in search of a spiritual or inward meaning, for their true significance. The plain, simple, grammatical meaning of the words employed, furnishes the sense that is intended.

As to form, therefore, they tally, perfectly, with what the Lord taught with respect to His coming Revelation.

Applying the parabolic principle of interpretation to the Lord's prophecies respecting His Second Coming, the Writings of the New Church show that it is not a personal Coming, attended with signs and wonders in the sky of earth, but a "coming," like the one on Sinai in a Revelation and manifestation to men, of the Divine truth which has always been inwardly within His parabolic Revelation, in the literal sense of the Word. The Word itself teaches that the Lord is "the Truth" (John 14:6), and that He is "the Word" (John 1:1, 14). The "coming" of Divine Truth to men in a Divine Revelation, therefore, is a "Coming of the Lord"; a spiritual "coming," it is true, but not the less a real and true "coming" on that account. The Lord's former "comings" have consisted in a Revelation of Divine Truth, or "the Word," in its letter or literal sense, in which it is parabolic; and, by those "comings," that sense has been fully and completely given. This form of Divine Revelation is repeatedly spoken of in the parabolic language of the literal sense of the Word, as a "cloud"; for a "cloud" tempers, shrouds, and often even conceals the light which issues from the sun, just as the letter of the Divine Word tempers and often even completely hides, the clear brightness and radiant glory which every Divine Truth proceeding from the Lord, must needs be in its own nature.

For the Lord to "come" in the "clouds" of heaven, therefore, is, parabolically understood, for Him to manifest Himself in the letter of His Word; which He does by revealing, in a "plain," non-parabolic form, the "power and great glory" of the genuine unclouded Divine Truth which has always been within the letter. When men "see" genuine spiritual and Divine truth internally within every part of the Word, they can see THE LORD even in the letter; which, apart from such sight of genuine Truth within, cannot be done: "They shall see the SON OF MAN coming in the CLOUDS OF HEAVEN with POWER and GREAT GLORY."

In the Writings of the New Church the matter is put thus: "It is written in many places that the Lord will come in the clouds of heaven,' as in Matthew 17:5; 24, 30; 26, 64; Mark 14:62; Luke 9:34-5; 21, 27; Revelation 1:7; 14, 14; Daniel 7:13; but no one has heretofore known what is meant by the clouds of heaven,' and hence mankind have believed that the Lord will appear in them in person. But it has remained undisclosed to this day, that, by the clouds of heaven' is meant the Word in its literal sense; and that by the power and glory' in which also the Lord is to come (Matthew 24:30), is meant the Word in its spiritual sense; for no one, to this day, has had the least idea of there being in the Word any spiritual sense such as it is in reality and truth. Now, since the spiritual sense of the Word has been opened to one by the Lord, ... it has been revealed to me that the clouds of heaven' signify the Word in its natural sense, and glory' the Word in its spiritual sense, and power' the effectual operation of the Lord through the Word.

That the clouds of heaven' have this signification, may be seen from the following passages in the Word: There is none like unto the God, of Jeshurun, who rideth ... upon the CLOUDS' (Deuteronomy 33:26). Sing unto God; ... extol Him that rideth upon the CLOUDS' (Psalms 68, 4). Jehovah rideth upon a swift CLOUD' (Isaiah 19, i). To ride' signifies to instruct in Divine Truths from the Word ... Who does not see that God does not ride upon clouds! Again: God ... put for His tent the CLOUDS OF THE HEAVENS' (Psalms 18:10, 11). Jehovah bindeth up the waters in His CLOUDS, and He spreadeth out the CLOUD over the throne' (Job 26:8, 9). Ascribe ye strength unto God; His strength is IN THE CLOUDS' (Psalms 68, 34)... The Word in the sense of the letter was also represented by the cloud ' in which Jehovah descended upon Mount Sinai, when He promulgated the Law: the things of the Law which were then promulgated were the first-fruits of the Word" (@TCR 776).

The Second Coming of the Lord, therefore, may now be seen to be the Revelation of the Spiritual Sense which has always been in the Holy Word, and the consequent manifestation of the Lord even in the letter of the Word to the rational sight of men; whereby the Lord's operation upon man for his salvation, is made the more effectual and powerful. This Spiritual Sense of the Word with the Doctrines pertaining to it, is what is given to men in the "Writings of the New Church."

And this Revelation, it should be well noted, does not supersede, or cancel, that which we have in the letter of the Word. It supplements it, and enables all who will, to enter for the first time into its real and full meaning. It thus perfects and fulfils the Revelation in the letter of the Word, and makes it inconceivably more precious, because more available, than it has ever yet been, or in any other way can be.

In our next paper, we propose to consider in some detail The Relation of Swedenborg to the New Church.

III. The Relation of Swedenborg to the New Church.

THE necessity of a discussion of this subject in the present series of papers arises from the existence of the widespread but erroneous, though not unnatural supposition, that Swedenborg's relation to the New Church is the same as that of, say, Wesley to the Wesleyan churches. This is not merely a mistaken notion, but a mistaken notion of a very fundamental character, involving an altogether misleading idea of what the New Church is, and what it stands for.

It is evident that some account of the man himself is necessary to the proper understanding of his relation with the Church of the New Age. We commence, therefore, with a summary of his life and work.

Emanuel Swedenborg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, on the 29th of January, 1688. He was the third child and second son of Dr. Jesper Swedberg, Lutheran Bishop of Skara, in West Gothland, a province of Sweden. His birth-name, therefore, was Swedberg. It was changed to Swedenborg (correctly pronounced Swed-en-berg) when he was ennobled by Queen Ulrica Eleanora, in the year 1719; this change of name being equivalent to the conferring of a title.

As his elder brother was no longer living, and Emanuel Swedenborg was consequently the eldest male member of his family, he became entitled, by his elevation, according to Swedish custom, to a seat in the House of Nobles of the Swedish Diet. To the legislative duties which thus devolved upon him, he gave considerable attention, and even up to old age bore his share in the deliberations of the House of which he was a member.

His childhood need not detain us. He was carefully and well educated, however, and, at a suitable age, went to the University at Upsala to complete his education. His studies there were pursued with such success that he took his degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the age of twenty-one. He then, as was customary for sons of wealthy and noble families, devoted some years—in his case, nearly five—to traveling in the countries of Western Europe. It is interesting to us, as Englishmen, to find that the first country he visited on leaving his native shores was our own. He landed in London in the year 1710. His stay in England extended over about two years, during which time he met many of the most learned men of the day, conspicuous amongst whom were Edmund Halley and John Flamsteed, both of them eminent astronomers.

From England he went to Holland, and thence, in turn, to Brussels, Leyden, Paris, Hamburg, Pomerania, and Greifswalde; returning to Sweden in 1715, after an absence of between four and five years.

It must not be imagined that these years were devoted to amusement. Of that we find no sign. They were years of arduous study and labor, of the most varied character. Astronomy and chemistry were studied with especial assiduity. He lodged with several different artisans, from all of whom he made it his business to gain some practical acquaintance with their arts. Amongst the trades of which he thus acquired a practical knowledge, were, the making of mathematical instruments, cabinet malting,

engraving, glass-grinding for lenses, and watch making. Bookbinding he had learned before starting on his travels, and, about the same time, had attained to such proficiency in his musical studies as to occasionally play the organ and conduct the musical portion of services in his father's church. Mathematics and mechanics were favorite studies; and by way of "recreation," as he explains, he devoted his attention, for a time, to the study of poetry and the cultivation of poetical composition. Some of his poems are still extant, and are said by authorities to possess a fairly high degree of merit.

His knowledge of languages was very extensive. He wrote nearly all his numerous scientific and philosophical works in Latin; and, although his theological works are characterized by none of the graces of style, his secular works afford abundant evidence of ability to use the language, not only with ease and clearness, but also with elegance.

He was well acquainted, too, with most of the languages of Western Europe, and possessed a fair reading knowledge of our own, although, notwithstanding his long residence in this country in different periods of his life, he was never able to converse in it without difficulty. He had, of course, a scholar's knowledge of Greek; and, after fifty years of age, he made himself master of Hebrew, in order that he might know the Holy Word in the original language, as a necessary part of his equipment for the duties of his great Mission.

His proficiency in all departments of natural learning, gave him a European fame, and a foremost place among the savants of his generation. He was a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences in his own country, and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg. But the vastness of his knowledge, and the scope and stature of his mental powers, can probably be more thoroughly realized from a mere list of the works he published in the twenty-eight years between 1717 and 1744. We give them, for the most, in chronological order.

1717 (PUBLISHED IN SWEDISH.)

1. Information concerning Tin-ware of Stjernerund, its Use and the Method of Tinning.
2. The Importance of instituting an Astronomical Observatory in Sweden.
3. On the Mode of assisting Commerce and Manufactures.
4. Memorial on the Establishment of Salt-works in Sweden.
5. Theory concerning the End of the Earth.
6. The Nature of Fire and Colors.
7. On the Causes of Things.

1718 (PUBLISHED IN SWEDISH).

8. On the Motion and Station of the Earth and Planets.
9. Attempt to find the Longitude by Means of the Moon.
10. Algebra, edited in Three Books. (This was the first treatise on Algebra ever published in Swedish.)

1719 (PUBLISHED IN SWEDISH).

11. About Docks, Sluices, and Salt-works.
12. Proposal for Regulating our Coinage and Measures, by which Computation is facilitated

and Fractions are abolished.

13. Respecting the Depth of Water and the Strong Tides in the Primeval Word: Proofs from Sweden.

1721 (PUBLISHED IN LATIN AT AMSTERDAM.)

14. A new Mechanical Plan of constructing Docks or Dykes; and a Mode of discovering the Powers of Vessels by the Application of Mechanical Principles.

15. A new Method of finding the Longitude of Places, by Land and Sea, by Lunar Observations.

16. New Observations and Discoveries respecting Iron and Fire: together with a new Construction of Stoves.

17. A Fore-runner of the First Principles of Natural Things, or, New Attempts to Explain Chemistry and Experimental Physics Geometrically.

18. Miscellaneous Observations on the Things of Nature, and especially on Minerals, Fire, and the Strata of Mountains. (Published in Leipsic.)

19. Fable of the Love and Metamorphosis of the Muse Urania into a Man and Servant of Apollo. (Published at Schiffbeck, near Hamburg.)

20. Frank Views on the Fall and Rise in the Value of Swedish Money. (Stockholm.)

From 1722 to 1733 the duties of his profession and the amassing of materials for, and the preparation for publication of, future works, occupied the whole of his time; but in 1734 he resumed publication.

1734 to 1738.

21. Philosophical and Metallurgical Works. This work was in three volumes, as follows:

Vol. I. The First Principles of Natural Things, being new Attempts towards a Philosophical Explanation of the Elemental World.

Vol. II. The Subterranean or Mineral Kingdom as regards Iron and the Methods of Smelting is which are in use in the various parts of Europe.

Vol. III. The Subterranean or Mineral Kingdom as regards Copper and the Methods, &c.

22. Outlines of a Philosophical Argument on the Infinite and Final Cause of Creation, and on the Mechanism of the Operation of Soul and Body.

1738. to 1741.

23. The Economy of the Animal Kingdom, divided into Transactions. (This is a large work, not on Natural History, as might be inferred from the terms of the title, but on Physiology and Psychology).

24. A Hieroglyphic Key of Natural and Spiritual Mysteries by way of Representations and Correspondences.

25. The Animal Kingdom considered Anatomically, Physically and Philosophically. (This work, like the Economy of the Animal Kingdom, deals with Physiology, and occupies two large volumes.)

In addition to these twenty-six works, Swedenborg contributed many learned dissertations to various learned societies, which were published in the "Transactions" of those bodies, and also left a large number of works of a similar character, the manuscripts of which are preserved in the Library of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm.

The nature of the works he wrote and published during this period of his life is a striking proof of the comprehensive grasp and the colossal greatness of his mind; while their number alone testifies to an almost incredible industry and working power.

A word must now be said about his profession. He was appointed to the post of "Assessor Extraordinary of the Royal College of Mines" of Sweden, in the year 1716. This "College of Mines" was a government department, having under its charge the whole of the mining industry of Sweden—the staple industry of the country; thus answering, in some respects and to a certain extent, to our Board of Trade and Board of Agriculture. It differed from these departments of the English Civil Service, however, in exercising judicial as well as administrative functions, in respect to all matters connected with the great mining industry of the country. As Assessor of Mines, Swedenborg was both an administrator and a judge. He continued to fill this post, and to discharge its important duties, until the year 1747, when he retired from it, refusing proffered promotion, which would have been accompanied by elevation to a higher degree of nobility. His reason for refusing these dignities was, he informed his friend, the Rev. Thomas Hartley, a Church of England clergyman, "lest his heart should be inspired with pride." He gave as his reason for retiring from his official post, "that he might have more leisure to devote himself to the new office to which the Lord had called him."

The reigning King of Sweden, in accepting his resignation, decreed him, as a pension, one-half of his salary for the rest of his life.

Swedenborg never married. Not from disinclination; for he was engaged, as a young man, to a daughter of the great engineer and mathematician, Christopher Polhem—"the Swedish Archimedes," as he was called. Learning, however, that the lady's affections were engaged elsewhere, Swedenborg magnanimously released her from the engagement, although her father, knowing that the king, Charles XII., favored the match, was willing to insist upon its being carried out. After this experience, Swedenborg seems to have given up all idea of marriage, though he always took great pleasure in the society and conversation of good and intelligent women.

A few years before his retirement from the College of Mines, there occurred what Swedenborg considered the most important circumstance of his life, of which he speaks in a letter to the English clergyman referred to above, in terms which we now proceed to adduce. After giving some personal particulars for which his correspondent had asked, he proceeds:

All that I have thus far related, I consider of comparatively little importance; for it is far exceeded by the circumstance that I have been called to a holy office by the Lord Himself, who most mercifully appeared before me, His servant, in the year 1743, when He opened my sight into the spiritual world,

and enabled me to converse with spirits and angels, in which state I have continued up to the present day.(*)

From that time, I began to print and publish the various arcana which were seen by me, or revealed to me, concerning heaven and hell, the state of man after death, the true worship of God, the spiritual sense of the Word, besides many other most important truths conducive to salvation and wisdom.

(*)This was written in 1769. Swedenborg continued in the state described to the last day of his life, which was the 29th of March, 1772.

A list of the works which Swedenborg published in this stage of his life, namely, between 1747 and 1771, a period of twenty-five years, are the following: The Heavenly Arcana; Heaven and Hell; The Last Judgment; The White Horse; The Earths in our Solar System; The New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine; Doctrine of the New Jerusalem concerning the Lord, the Sacred Scripture, Life and Faith; Angelic Wisdom concerning the Divine Love and the Divine Wisdom; Angelic Wisdom concerning the Divine Providence; The Apocalypse Revealed; The Delights of Wisdom relating to Conjugal Love; Brief Exposition of the Doctrine of the New Church; The Intercourse of the Soul and the Body; and The True Christian Religion. Certain other works of the same character left by Swedenborg in manuscript have been published since his death, and translated into English. All these works have been translated into English, French, and German, and some into Welsh, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Russian, Polish, Italian, Icelandic, Magyar, Spanish, Dutch, Arabic, and Hindi.

The appearance of the Lord to Swedenborg, and the opening of his spiritual senses to the phenomena of the spiritual world, thus stand at the very beginning of the theological period of his life; and these events differentiate him from every other theological teacher of modern days. The ordinary man, we are aware, recoils from all such supernatural claims, and is apt, on encountering them, to at once write down the claimant a visionary, an enthusiast, an impostor, or a victim of mental derangement; and this without any examination of the evidence offered in support of the claim. Much may be said in defense of this attitude as a general rule; but we would urge our readers to pause before committing themselves to it in the present case, until they have taken into consideration certain important circumstances.

Firstly, a careful examination of the books in which Swedenborg printed and published the things seen by him in the spiritual world and revealed to him, as he affirms, by the Lord, will fail to bring to light any signs, in the character of the writing, of either the visionary or the enthusiast, much less of an unsound mind. Their composition is almost solely matter of fact; calm, plain, straightforward, logical in form and in substance; perfectly coherent and perfectly self-consistent from beginning to end. "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen." We were ourselves once in the position of those we now address, and scouted the claims of the extraordinary man of whom we speak, without examination. But, in the Divine Providence, we were, later, led to examine; and this examination, and a careful yet candid weighing of the vast body of evidence that is easily accessible to all who desire it, satisfied us, firstly, that the claim to spiritual intercourse is a claim supported by a surprisingly large amount of contemporary evidence; secondly, that it is impossible for a rational man who knows the facts to imagine for a moment that Swedenborg was either an impostor, or a visionary, or an enthusiast, or insane, as some have given out;

thirdly, that the doctrines on the most important of all subjects that can engage the human mind, which are set forth in his works, are not only in the closest accord with the written Word of God, but are also taught in such a scientific and rational manner, and so buttressed by rational and philosophical arguments, as to abundantly supply the great need of the present age-a rational faith; these doctrines, in a word, enable men not only to retain but to increase, enlarge, and deepen spiritual faith, without stultifying their reason, but, on the contrary, exalting it. Such a "revelation," in fact, were these doctrines to us; such a wealth of spiritual knowledge and philosophy do they give; such a clear conviction of the utterly rational and ordered nature of the entire universe, both spiritual and natural, do they confer; and such a flood of light do they throw upon the precious Word of God, illuminating its darkest and most forbidding places, and fully vindicating its Divinity to rational perception, that the conviction grew and grew upon us, that positively the only reasonable account of their source and origin is that given by the instrument of their communication himself - that they were revealed to him by the Lord out of heaven.

It is a noteworthy feature of these Writings that,--while there is never any hesitation in their assertion of the spiritual experiences to which reference has been made, and there is frequent and most solemn insistence upon their truth and reality - they are never once appealed to as having the slightest bearing upon the truth of the doctrines the works are designed to teach.

As a matter of fact, moreover, so far is it from being the case that Newchurchmen accept the doctrines of the New Church on the strength of the remarkable spiritual experiences to which Swedenborg lays claim, that we do not believe anyone has ever yet admitted the spiritual experiences until he has been convinced of the truth of the doctrines.

The relation of Swedenborg to the New Church begins, now, we trust, to become apparent. He is simply the human instrument, or channel, through whom the Lord revealed the spiritual and Divine truths which the doctrines of the New Church are, for the establishment of a New Church in the world and the salvation and regeneration of mankind thereby. Because this work was intended for an age which needs that even spiritual truth should be presented to it in rational light, Swedenborg was led, of the Divine Providence, through a complete training in the whole round of natural sciences, was afterwards Divinely taught genuine spiritual truths of the highest order, and finally guided and led by the Lord to present the two, spiritual truth and natural truth, revelation and science, in wedded oneness to men.

Swedenborg was no "reformer"; he was not the founder of the New Church; he was not even the discoverer of the doctrines he "printed and published": he was simply the devout and humble "servant of the Lord," whom that same Lord chose, that he might receive into his own mind, and afterwards proclaim to his fellow-men, from the Lord who gave it, that further and fuller revelation of Himself, which at the time of His First Coming He was obliged still to hold in reserve, as shown in our second paper in this series.

The New Church does not worship Swedenborg; it does not regard him as a demi-god, as some have slanderously declared; it does not accept anything whatsoever contained in his works because Swedenborg says it. To do so would be contrary to the whole spirit and teachings of the Writings which bear his name. It accepts them, because it is convinced, by their own internal evidence, that the doctrines of the New Church are not Swedenborg's or any other man's; not even "from any angel, but from THE LORD ALONE" (True Christian Religion, 779).

The remaining papers of this series will be devoted to the exposition of some of the particular doctrines which the Lord has thus revealed and the New Church teaches in His name.

IV. God an Infinite Divine Man.

Knowledge concerning the Lord is far more excellent than all other knowledges of which either the Church or even heaven itself is in possession (SWEDENBORG, True Christian Religion, 81).

Human reason ... is able to perceive that God is and that He is One (ibid. 12).

To whom will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these (Isaiah 40:25, 26).

THE first of the doctrines of the New Church we propose to set before the reader is that respecting God. We begin with this, because the doctrine of God is the supreme and central doctrine of all religion, and pre-eminently of all theology. All other doctrines are, in fact, derived from this one, and receive their quality from this. If this root-doctrine be erroneous, the error will be transmitted to all the others, and they will be vitiated from their source. Hence the supreme importance of the doctrine respecting God, and the necessity of giving it the foremost place in any presentation of religious doctrine.

The teaching of the New Church on this subject may be, in part, gathered from the following highly concentrated summaries: "God is one both in Essence and Person" (@AE 1106);

"God is Infinite, because He is and exists in Himself, and all things in the universe are and exist from Him" (@TCR 28); "God is present everywhere throughout the whole world, and yet nothing proper to the world is in Him" (ibid. 30); "God is Omnipresent, from firsts to lasts" (ibid. 63); "God is Omnipotent" (ibid. 56); "God is Love Itself and Wisdom Itself" (ibid 67); "God is Omniscient" (ibid. 59); "God is Good Itself and Truth Itself" (ibid 38); "God, because He is Love Itself and Wisdom Itself, is Life Itself, which is Life in Itself" (ibid. 39); "God is Order, and He introduced order into the universe at the Creation" (ibid. 52); "The following things are not creatable [and consequently existed absolutely in God alone]: 1. What is Infinite; 2. Love and Wisdom; 3. Life; ... 5. Activity considered in itself: but organs receptive of these are creatable and are created" (ibid 472).

These are canons of the New Church concerning God; and we place them thus conspicuously in the very front of our presentation of this subject, that they may be known to be essential parts of the Divine Revelation of which the New Church is the custodian and the dispenser to the New Age. As, however, it is characteristic of this New Age that it needs, not only that the truth should be proclaimed to it, but that the truth should be exhibited as rationally and demonstrably true, we propose, in the present and following paper, to endeavor to confirm the positions thus preliminarily laid down, by rational argument, on the lines indicated in the quotation from the Word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, which we have set at the head hereof.

We propose, in other words, to appeal to the created universe in confirmation of these revealed attributes of its Creator. And we hope to show that the being of God, and His possession of the attributes enumerated, are necessities of human thought, carried to its logical issues, on the great theme to which our attention is directed, when that thought seeks to know the causes, and to obtain a rational explanation of phenomena.

The first link in the argument is, of course, that there must be a First Cause. This position is arrived at

from the uniformity of the experience that all existences and occurrences within the range of human knowledge are effects, or, what is the same thing, that they grow out of something else which has existed, or happened, before they themselves became. That precedent circumstance, or fact, we call the "cause." So uniform, indeed, is this experience, that on encountering anything new we at once raise the question, What is the cause? never doubting for a moment that there is a cause. We know of absolutely nothing which does not prove, on investigation, to have resulted from some cause; and we have thence come to regard the belief in cause as a necessary quality of a sound mind. All men agree that grave doubts, at least, must be entertained of the sanity of a person who really believes that anything within the realm of human experience could possibly occur, or exist, without any cause.

Admitting this fundamental principle, the mind of man goes on to inquire, What is the cause of this, that, or the other effect, with which our senses make us acquainted? And when it has satisfied itself on this point, it has still to ask, And what is the cause of that which has caused this? And, afterwards, What is the cause of that previous cause? and so on indefinitely, for the reason that nothing in the universe of finite existences, not even a "cause," can, in the nature of things, come to pass, or exist, without some prior thing adequate to produce it or bring it to pass. And that producing thing is what we mean by its "cause."

It is quite true that, strictly speaking, "cause is too large a term for what is meant; which is, simply, in the majority of cases, a necessarily antecedent condition. We are very fond of describing inconsequent reasoners as drawing their conclusions on the principle of post hoc ergo propter hoc, without reflecting that that is really the usual mode of even scientific inference. What we usually call the "cause" is really the antecedent, and stands on the same plane, and is of the same category, exactly, as its effect. True "cause," however, is more than this; it is a producer; and, to be a producer, it must, plainly, belong to a different category, and be on a higher plane than the "effect" it produces. The nature of true "cause" is best seen in the relation between mind and body. Not to multiply instances, let us take the bodily effect called a "scowl."

That is well known to be the result of the activity, at the time, of the passion of hate in the mind of the scowler; but hate belongs to the category of things mental or spiritual, while a scowl belongs to the category of things bodily, natural, or physical. Now, here, we have true causation. The mental thing of the higher plane brings into existence the bodily thing on the lower plane, and presents itself in that, in a form, not resembling in any pictorial sense, but yet representing, and perfectly corresponding to, itself. Strictly speaking, therefore, when we say that everything within the realm of experience is an effect from some "cause," which, alone, can fully explain it, we ought to mean that all things are produced, and, as it were, created by some pre-existing state or thing on a higher plane. But we do not - unless unusually strict and exact in our mode of thinking and reasoning - mean anything of the kind. What we do mean, is, that every known occurrence or thing follows upon and succeeds some other thing the same in kind with itself, without which antecedent thing it could not have come about. While, however, this is not true cause, it images forth true cause, and is a witness to the universality of the law of cause and effect throughout the universe of finite things. If the image of the law is omnipresent amongst things on the same plane, so that everything is the consequent of some necessary antecedent, much more must the law itself be omnipresent as between things on different but contiguous planes, as between mind and body, spirit and matter, God and creation.

This discrimination is emphasized in order to guard against the supposition, that, in speaking of God as the First "Cause," as we shall presently have to do, He is to be conceived as continuous, and on the same plane, with His creation; as, for instance, a lion is in relation to its cub. This would be an entirely erroneous conception. God's relation to His creation can only be conceived with even approximate correctness in the light of such an illustration as that of the "scowl" and the mental passion of hate. God is superior to His creation, as the mind (to speak comparatively only) is superior to the body, and in an entirely different category from it. Nothing, consequently, in creation can be compared with the Creator as like with like, or as one thing with another thing with which it stands, in any respect, on an equality: "To whom will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One."

It is perfectly plain, in the next place, that this demand for the "cause" can go on, and in fact must go on, indefinitely, as long as ever the thought is engaged in the contemplation of the universe of created things. Created things are caused things: things that do not bring themselves into existence, but were brought into existence by some cause outside of, and prior to, themselves. As long, then, as we are dealing with the created universe, this question, What is the cause? imperatively must be asked, if we are to understand the thing on which our thought is engaged.

Another necessity of rational thought, however, is that this inquiry must STOP somewhere!

For it is another testimony of experience that all finite things have had a beginning. The chain of universal causation, therefore, must have had a beginning; and, consequently, there must have been, and must indeed still be, a First Cause. To this the human intellect, if it goes on thinking, is bound to come, however long it may postpone the necessity, or however far bath it may place the First Cause. Let it but continue to think, and carry thought to its logical issue, and the arrival at a First Cause is inevitable. In theology, the First Cause is named God.

Now clearly the First Cause must be itself uncaused. Were it not, it must have had a cause, and could not itself be the First Cause. But it is the real First Cause that we are dealing with now. The First Cause is necessarily uncaused, or what is the same thing, untreated. It is, that is to say, self-existent, or it does not derive its existence from anything other than itself or even from itself; for in that case it would have caused itself, and caused itself, moreover, before it had existence - which is, of course, absurd. All that can be said of the First Cause, under this head, is that it exists in and of Itself. God, therefore, because He is the First Cause, is SELF-EXISTENT.

God, as First Cause, must, further, have always existed, or be Eternal. Were this not the case, then He must have come into existence, or have been caused. But as God is the First Cause, that is, obviously, entirely out of the question.

God, therefore, being the First Cause, must, in the nature of the case, be ETERNAL as well as SELF-EXISTENT.

He must also be Infinite, that is, absolutely All-embracing. For He is the First Cause of all things in their succession and order; and every effect necessarily owes all it has, and all it is, to its CAUSE. There is absolutely no other source whence its qualities can be derived, and they must all be derived from some cause, or else we have a case of an uncaused thing, which, outside the First Cause, is impossible. Every effect derives all its qualities from its cause; that cause derived all its qualities from its cause; that one

from its cause, and so on, right back to the First, which, of necessity, therefore, embraces in itself all things which are in the subsequent causes and effects, in every chain. And that which embraces everything in its own bosom is Infinite. Infinite, in fact, paeans that which embraces all that is, so that, beyond it, there is nothing. God, therefore, being the First Cause of all things, is necessarily INFINITE as well as ETERNAL and SELF-EXISTENT.

God is also adequate as regards ability or power. He must contain within Himself the power to produce all the things which have been produced; He must be adequate, in respect of power, to the production and sustentation of all things in the universe. He is, therefore, all-powerful, another word for which is Almighty, or Omnipotent. God, inasmuch as He is the First Cause of all things, is, therefore, necessarily OMNIPOTENT, as well as INFINITE, ETERNAL, and SELF-EXISTENT.

Equally certain is it that He is all-penetrating or omnipresent. He must be everywhere, and, moreover, everywhere at the same time. For we must always remember the He is the First Cause. And, in the first place, a cause cannot possibly, it is manifest, produce anything where itself is not; and, secondly, if the true cause be removed, the effect will fall to pieces and cease to be. One of the necessary conditions, or causes, of burning, is the presence of oxygen. Without its presence to begin with, there can be no flame if, at any moment, you remove the oxygen, the flame will instantly go out. And so in the case of all true cause - and pre-eminently of the First Cause, which is a true one beyond all others: unless the cause be continually present in the effect, the effect must cease to be. The continuance of the effects necessitates the continued presence of the cause; the simultaneous continuance, or preservation, of all effects taken together, necessitates the simultaneous presence of the First Cause, or God, wherever there are effects - which is throughout the created universe; and this simultaneous presence of God throughout the universe, is exactly what is meant by His omnipresence. God then, as the great, First Cause, is necessarily OMNIPRESENT, as well as OMNIPOTENT, INFINITE, ETERNAL, and SELF-EXISTENT.

It is a necessary property of the First Cause, also, that it should be alive, or living.

Where else could our life, and the life that perennially works in all the kingdoms of nature, come from? It must come in the case of every effect from its cause, and ultimately from the ultimate or First Cause of it. That Cause, therefore, must needs be a living cause. That the non-living should produce the living, or death produce life, is absurd and impossible on the face of it. Not merely, however, does the presence of life in the created universe demonstrate that the First Cause is a living Cause: it proves, by the same reasoning, that it is the Original Fount of all the life that there is - thus, Life itself, in its origin. God, therefore, must be much more than a mere living God. He is necessarily "Life Itself, which is Life in Itself."

It is worthy of note, too, that the same argument which establishes the omnipresence of God, demonstrates His perpetual activity as the First Cause. If the Cause cease to act, the effect passes away; but the totality of effects which the created universe is does not pass away: it persists: and, in that-persistence, we have the demonstration of the perpetual Activity of God as Creator, or First Cause. God, therefore, is LIFE Itself, and ACTIVITY in Itself, as well as OMNIPRESENT, OMNIPOTENT, INFINITE, ETERNAL, and SELF-EXISTENT.

What, next, is LIFE? In the highest form in which we know it as an experienced thing-the form of human life - it is love. There can be no conscious action without love as its cause. Unless we desire,

wish, or love, in respect to anything, there cannot be the slightest inducement to act.

If it be only the desire for change of place or position, desire must be present, or no such change will occur. And, in the last analysis, it comes out that we desire only what we love. All man's conscious activity is ultimately resolvable into love. And all God's activity, which the manifestations of life in nature necessarily are - all of which activity, in God, is Conscious activity-ultimately springs from, or in its origin is, God's Love. And God's Love is Love Itself. Because He is Life Itself, then, and Activity Itself, He is also Love Itself. God, however, is Infinite. He is Infinite, therefore, as to every constituent of His being, and thus as to His Love. He is thus Infinite Love, or Love in its First Fount or Origin.

Not Love alone, however. Love alone can achieve nothing. It is absolutely helpless and powerless. Without an adequate knowledge of how the desired thing can be wrought, love can never realize itself. But God is All-powerful. His love, therefore, is not Love alone. It is wedded to a co-equal - that is, an Infinite - Wisdom, through which it can sustain and does sustain a co-equal - that is, an Infinite - Activity, or Usefulness.

The realization, then, that God is the First Cause of all things that are, and the working out of this supreme necessity of rational thought to its logical issues in the few directions in which space permits of our doing so, has led us to the perception that because God is the First Cause, and the All in all things, He must necessarily be Self-Existent, Eternal, Infinite, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Life Itself, and finally Infinite Love, Infinite Wisdom, and Infinite Activity.

In conclusion, we suggest the question, What do conscious love; wisdom, and activity constitute? They constitute Man! God, therefore, because He is these things Infinitely, is MAN Infinitely, and from Him it is that finite man derives all that makes him man. A certain class of philosophers - or philosophizers - shrink from this conclusion as "anthropomorphic," or, as they understand, making God to be in the likeness of man, and so, in their estimation, degrading Him to man's level. It is anthropomorphic; but it does not make God to be in the likeness of man; it is simply rational certitude that man is the image and likeness of GOD. Nor does it thus degrade God; on the other hand, it exalts man; and to this it superadds the incalculable boon of tearing to shreds the irrational dogma that man derives his human faculties from creatures themselves destitute of these, and immeasurably lower than he in the scale of existence. Man necessarily derives his manhood from GOD; who is thus incontrovertibly demonstrated to be the archetypal and consequently INFINITE or DIVINE MAN.

V. God a Divine Man consisting of a Trinity.

THE conception of God as a Divine Man is so fundamental to a true idea of the Trinity, that it will be wise to re-affirm that conception, and even further exhibit its inevitableness, before proceeding to the direct discussion of the important subject of the Trinity in God, which it is the object of this paper to present. Not very many years ago, the great apostle of religion-tinctured modern "culture"--Matthew Arnold - made the whole "cultured" side of the religious world happy by giving it the phrase, "The Power, not ourselves, that makes for righteousness," as a definition of God. For, to culture, "anthropomorphism" is particularly obnoxious. From that day to this, a number, and perhaps an increasing number, of otherwise intelligent people, have thought, and still think, that they have, in the definition in question, an idea of God that is really rational. To such a conception of God, the idea of a Trinity has, obviously, no relation whatever. If God is merely a "Power," of whatsoever quality, or tendency, a Trinity is a thing - if thing, indeed, it be, not a mere word - with which we have no concern.

"Fatherhood" and "Sonship," certainly, are not predicable of a "Power" which is not at the same time a Being, or Person. Let us, then, look at this matter more closely.

It has to be carefully noted, in the first place, that the idea of "The Power" with which we have to do is a non-personal one; for it is of the essence of Matthew Arnold's definition that God is not a Person; and it was to get rid of the personal conception that the dynamic conception - or rather phrase - was invented. Our question, then, comes to this, Is God a mere Power, as distinguished from an All-powerful Personal Being? If He is, then He is on the same level, as to nature, with Gravitation or Electricity; which all will recognize as examples of powers, or forces, in the non-personal sense.

The question must be decided on the basis of God's necessary attributes, as disclosed by Revelation and corroborated by Reason. Conspicuous among these attributes, as we saw in our last paper, are Love and Wisdom. The question is, Can Love and Wisdom be predicated of a Power which is not at the same time a Person? Is there such a thing - to come to particulars - as Love in the abstract, or, what is the same, as Love apart from a Person who Loves? Is there such a thing as Wisdom in the abstract, that is, Wisdom apart from a Person, or Being, who is Wise? Everyone who reflects knows that there is not; and that, although we think and speak of qualities by themselves, as though they had a separate existence of their own, we know, all the time, that, as a matter of hard fact, they never actually exist except as the properties, qualities, or attributes, of this, that, or the other subject in which they inhere.

We might as reasonably think and affirm that redness exists apart from some thing that is "red"; heaviness apart from some thing that is "heavy"; thickness apart from some thing that is "thick"; sweetness apart from some thing that is "sweet"; as think of Love and Wisdom as having any actual existence apart from - not some "thing"; for a Thing cannot, in the nature of the case, either love or hate, be wise or foolish; but, apart from - some Being who does the Loving and who is Wise. This cherished resolution of God into a mere Power, is, then, utterly inconsistent with the perceived necessary attributes of God as the First Cause, or the Creator of the universe; and the definition which sums it up, or gives it expression, would be found to involve, in the end, the long-exploded figment of abstract ideas. We now, then, have a clear perception, and a firm grip, of the truth that rational thought does not allow of our having any other idea of God, the First Cause, than as a Divine BEING, or, what is the same thing, a Divine PERSON, or, what is still the same, a Divine MAN.

And how plainly and unequivocally the Manhood of the Creator stands forth in the pages of the Word! There is absolutely no other conception of Him known to the Scriptures than the Personal, Human One. In the very first chapter of the very first Book of the Holy Word, where man first appears on the inspired page, he is introduced to the reader as being constituted in the image and likeness of GOD: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God created He him" (Genesis 1:27).

Man's manhood is thus but a finite reflection of, and derivation from, God's Manhood.

It, of course, follows from the absolutely and truly causal relation in which God stands to the universe, that everything whatsoever is the "image" of something in God; for from His Infinity all things originally came forth and perpetually subsist; and in His Infinity they are all eternally embraced. This, however, does not make these things to be images of God, but only "images" of this or that single affection of the Divine Love or perception of the Divine Wisdom. With man the case is widely different. The poet has truly sung

Man is, in little, all the sphere;

and because he is this, and thus, "in little," sums up in himself the total of the created things in which God has, by Divine causative processes, imaged forth His separate Divine affections and perceptions, therefore, in man, His crowning work, God has produced a finite image of His own total Being; and in doing so, has given the final demonstration of His own Manhood.

From this it follows, of inevitable consequence, that the Trinity in God must be imaged in man, and that, moreover, as is the Trinity in God, such will be the imaged trinity in man. Were it otherwise, man would be found belying his creation, or, more correctly, our reading, either of man or of God, would be at open war with the truth of creation.

No Christian man, woman, or child, needs to be told that the elements of the Divine Trinity are named, in the New Testament, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We say "elements" rather than "persons" of the Divine Trinity, because the latter expression takes the nature of the elements for granted in advance, and, moreover, in doing so, assumes for the elements a nature which cannot possibly be their true one. The impossibility of the Trinity in God being one of which the elements are Persons, is demonstrated by the fact that man is created in the image of God. It follows from this, that, whatever the nature of the Trinity in God, there must be a trinity of similar nature - allowing for the difference between the Infinite and the finite - and subject to similar conditions, in His "image." If, therefore, the Divine Trinity is a Trinity of Persons, there must not only be in man a human trinity, but that human trinity must be a trinity of persons, subject to similar conditions - to those which obtain in the Divine Trinity. Now, no one has ever yet had the hardihood to openly impugn the Oneness of God, or to assert anything which, in its terms, contradicts the fundamental truth that God is One and there is only One God. Very well. If it were granted that the Divine Trinity is a Trinity of Persons, or that the admitted three elements of the Divine Trinity, named, respectively, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are three Persons, it must, at the same time, be conceded, nay, it must be insisted under pain of denying the Christian Faith as well as outraging the common sense of mankind - that the three Divine "Persons" make One God.

In God's "image," then, there must be a trinity; that trinity, on the hypothesis now before our minds,

would have to be a trinity of persons; and this trinity would have to be so circumstanced that the three "persons" of which it consists should constitute one man, neither more nor less. As regards the first point, that there is a trinity in man, the New Church not merely admits it, but insists upon it, and teaches, further, that there exists no single thing in the universe in which there is not a trinity. As to the second point, that the trinity is one of persons, and also as to the third, that the three human persons of this human trinity make one man, the New Church is content to abide by the appeal to facts. Is it a fact, that the trinity in man is a trinity consisting of three persons? Or, to put it differently, are there three persons in every man? We know the case is not so, but quite the contrary. Every man is one person, and one only, a fact that goes far to justify the conclusion - we should be prepared to say that it compels the conclusion-that God, or the Archetypal Man, must be one Person and One only. Lastly, do three human persons make one man? No one would maintain that it is so. Three human persons make three men; and three Divine Persons must infallibly make three Gods. But there are NOT three Gods: "Jehovah, our God, is ONE Jehovah" (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29).

That the three elements which make up the Divine Trinity should be Persons, is, therefore, utterly impossible.

It is to be admitted that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit of the New Testament Scripture, are frequently referred to in terms which seem necessarily to imply the separate personality of each, and personal relations between, at any rate, the first two. On the other hand, it is also found that both the Father and the Holy Spirit are identified with Him to whom the term "Son" is distinctively applied - the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ-in a manner which is altogether incompatible with such personal separateness as does seem to be sometimes, and even frequently, indicated. For instance, "Lest men should believe that the Father and He are two, the Lord says, the FATHER and I are one; and lest they should believe that they are one only by love, He adds, that ye may know and believe that I am IN the Father and the Father IN Me (Apocalypse Explained, 852). The familiar Old Testament prophecy, again, has it "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given and ... His NAME shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the EVERLASTING FATHER" (Isaiah 9:6). And the Lord's own expostulation, addressed to Philip, ought to carry conviction to every mind: "He that hath seen ME hath seen the Father. How SAYEST THOU, then, SHEW US the Father?" (John 14:9). Personal identity is the clear implication of these and many more of our Lord's own utterances; and with them the idea of distinctness of personality is quite incompatible.

It is a conclusion from which, we would submit, there is no escape, that, as to Person, the Lord and the Father, or the "Son" and the "Father" of the New Testament, are ONE; but, within the One Person, there are distinctions - the "elements" of the Divine Trinity - to which the names, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are applied and are applicable.

We shall, evidently, be materially assisted towards an understanding of the nature of these three elements of the Divine Trinity, and thus of the real character of that Trinity itself, if we can learn something definite respecting the relation in which they stand to each other. Such definite information is to hand. Immediately after His expostulation with Philip for asking to be shewn the Father, when he had seen Him, in the Person of the Lord, for a long time past Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known ME, Philip? He that hath seen ME hath seen the Father - immediately after this, and in immediate connection with this, the Lord added: "Believest thou not that I am IN the Father, and

the Father IN Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; the Father THAT DWELLETH IN ME, He doeth the works" (John 14:10). The Lord was speaking in the character of the "Son." In that character He declared two things respecting the "Father's" relation to Him: (1) the Father "dwelt in" the Son; and (2) the Father, evidently by virtue of that indwelling, "did the works" and spoke the words, which, in their outward manifestation, issued from the Son.

If, now, we turn to God's "image," and seek, there, in the one person of an individual man, for an "image" of this duality of Father and Son in One Person, and also an "image" of the relation in which the two elements of this duality stand to one another in the Lord, we shall be on the way to a finding of the first two elements of the trinity, alike in God and in man.

Do we find, then, in the one personality of a single man, anything which, "dwelling in" it, is the real "doer" of the works and the real "speaker" of the words, which pass from the single man to those around? Is there, permanently dwelling within the individual man, any element" to which the accomplished acts and spoken words of the visible man - the second "element" of the man's "duality"--can be correctly ascribed, as their real doer and speaker? Just noting, in passing, that the "visible man" is the outward bodily man - the man's body, as we say - we discern that the second element of man's "duality" is his BODY. But the body does not do the works, or speak the words, or think the thoughts, or cherish the affections, which are done, and spoken, and thought, and cherished, in the body and through it. Otherwise, a corpse, which is "body" alone, could do all these things. The body is a mere instrument, or organ; indispensable, it is true, to the doing of all the things enumerated, but not the real, only the apparent doer, of them.

The real agent is the first "element" of the single human personality - the cor-relative, as we express it, of the second "element," which we know to be the body; and the correlative of the body is the "soul." Organically, or structurally considered, the one person of a man embraces the duality of soul and body; the soul, or invisible man, "dwelling in" the body, or "visible man," animating it, and being the real doer of the works, the real speaker of the words, thinker of the thoughts, cherisher of the affections, which are done, spoken, thought and cherished in and by the means of the body.

In this relation of soul and body in one man, it is perfectly easy to see the "image" of Father and Son in the One Personality in which alone. "God" has been "brought forth to view" (John 1:18). Just as the soul is the "invisible man," so is "the Father" the "invisible God"; just as the body is the "visible man," so "the Son" is the "visible, God"; just as the soul, or "invisible man," is made. visible, "brought forth to view," or manifested, in the body and thus alone, so is the Father, or the invisible God, made visible, "brought forth to view," or manifested, in the Son, and in Him alone. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which, is in the bosom of the Father, He hath brought Him forth to view" (John 1:18).

This argument might be carried much farther into detail, with the result of furnishing additional confirmation of the truth of the conclusion arrived at; but enough has been said, we feel sure, to carry the conviction to any intelligent, open mind, that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself exhibits the relation existing between the Father and the Son, as the "pattern" of the relation existing between the soul and the body in man; or, to put it slightly otherwise, that the Lord represents "the Father" as God's Soul, and "the Son" as God's Body. And these two - Father and Son - are the first two "elements" of the Divine Trinity.

But the third - the "Holy Spirit?" It may, at first, seem to some, that any third element is excluded by the very completeness and conclusiveness of this conception of the doctrine of the Father and the Son. Soul and body, it may be thought, are all that go to make a man; and where those two are, there, without any third "element," you have a complete man. Really, this is not so. With soul and body alone, you have, it may be granted, an organically, or structurally complete and perfect man, to which, mechanically or structurally regarded, nothing more is requisite for its completeness, or, indeed, can be added. Quite so; but is "mechanism," however complete, even the "mechanism" of soul and body, all that is required to constitute a man? Suppose you have the soul and the body both present, but no life, lived by, them - no activity produced, no, works done, no words, spoken, no use performed; would this soul-and-body compound be a man? Certainly not: the most it would be, is a soul-body lay figure.

To constitute a man - which is a living being - the soul and body must not only be present, they must act and re-act upon, and with, each other, and there must be activity going forth from them. The activity which goes forth from a man we call the life he lives; and it is, in fact, his actual living. Without a third element, in addition to soul and body, then - their conjoint action and reaction going forth from them - there would be the mechanism of a man, truly, but the actual "living" would be absent, and there would not, as a consequence, be a living man. In other words, soul, body and their combined activity going forth from them - or, "living"--are all essential to the living man. And it is not difficult to see that the Divine equivalents of these three must be equally essential to a "Living God." Two of them, the Soul and the Body, we have already, under the guidance of. the Lord's own teaching, identified as "the Father" and "the Son" of the Divine Trinity. Go we, now, to the same Source of instruction respecting the "Holy Spirit."

This point is slightly complicated by the fact that the "Holy Spirit proper did not exist until after God had put on a natural body, and thereby for a time dwelt in the natural world, and in that body had "glorified" His human nature, called Jesus: "The Holy Spirit WAS NOT YET,(*) because that Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39). There did exist, however, an equivalent for the post-incarnation "Holy Spirit," in the "Spirit of God," the "Spirit of Jehovah," the "Spirit of Holiness," of which mention is so frequently made in the Old Testament Scriptures, which stood in a like relation to the "Father" and "Son" "from eternity," to that in which the "Holy Spirit" proper stands to the "Father," and the "Son" glorified in time.

Whatever we learn respecting the "Holy Spirit" proper, therefore, can be applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to its pre-incarnation equivalent.

(*) This is the true reading; see the original Greek.

In one of the few post-resurrection appearances of our Lord to His "orphaned" disciples, a notable incident occurred, which is as instructive and conclusive respecting the relation of the "Holy Spirit" and the Son, as is what we have just been digesting respecting the relation between the "Father" and the Son. When the Lord had spoken to the disciples, we read that "He breathed on them, and said, Receive ye the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). It seems scarcely necessary to point out, that that which the disciples were thus enjoined to "receive," under the name of the "Holy Spirit," was that which the Lord "breathed on them," in other words, the breath which proceeded from His Divine Body, or "the Son"; "dwelling in" which body, was the Divine Soul, or "the Father." Here, then, is the relation of the three elements of the Divine Trinity, as exhibited to us by the Lord Himself. The centre of this Trinity is the

Lord Jesus Christ Himself, "in whom dwelleth ALL THE FULNESS of the Godhead BODILY" (Colossians 2:9)--CONSEQUENTLY, the Divine Trinity. "Dwelling in" Him, as the soul in a man's body, is "the Father"; and proceeding from HIM, as the breath does from a man's body when it is united with the soul in the act of living, is the "Holy Spirit."

The "breath" is really the life of the body from the soul, going forth from the body; and, being that, it is a most apt equivalent for ALL the activities which make up the forth-flowing life of man. The Divine Breath, or, what is the same thing, the "Holy Spirit," is the equivalent of, and it suggests, THE SUM OF THE DIVINE ACTIVITIES which are for ever going forth, to, and on behalf of, men, from the Divine Body of the Living God.

The issue of the present paper, it will be noticed, is, that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One Divine Person in whom the whole Godhead is centered, and thus that HE is God alone. This is the doctrine of the New Church which we propose to consider in our next chapter.

VI. That God ... is the Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ (True Christian Religion, n. 3).

AS the issue of our last paper, we found ourselves logically committed to the position that "the Lord Jesus Christ is the One Divine Person in whom the whole Godhead is centered, and thus that HE is God alone." By this is, of course, meant that the One Only God of heaven and earth, consisting of the Divine Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is most instructive and significant to observe the complete identity of this conclusion with the Lord's own claims, subsequently to His resurrection. According to Matthew's Gospel, His last injunction to His disciples, at the time when He was about to cease to "dwell" outwardly with them (John 14:17) in the world, was: "ALL POWER is given unto Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18).

It is readily, and we believe generally discerned, that "all power" is simply another expression for almightiness, or omnipotence. It is indisputable; in any case, that the meaning of the word omnipotence, or almightiness, is "all-power," and nothing else.

At the close of His earthly career, therefore, our Lord expressly declared that OMNIPOTENCE, "in heaven and on earth," was given to Him. This, again, means of necessity that, at that time, He was possessor of Omnipotence OVER ALL things and beings "in heaven and on earth." In the slipshod way in which most people do their thinking, especially on matters of religion and religious doctrine, it is sometimes not discerned that Omnipotence is the absolute and exclusive attribute, covering all things and incapable of being shared, that it necessarily is. An Omnipotence which does not extend, as we have put it, "over all things, beings and persons," in the whole universe, is not "Omnipotence" at all. Such power may be vast, immense, all but Infinite; but the circumstance that it is "all but" Infinite, that there is something - be it only one thing, being or person - over which it does not extend, prevents it from being Infinite power, and thus from being Omnipotence. Omnipotence is necessarily supreme power over everything that is. It is also obvious, to rational reflection, that there cannot possibly be two beings who are "Omnipotent." To be that, each must have supreme power over the other, as well as over all things and beings besides; and that, of two beings, the first should have supreme power over the second, and also the second over the first, is a manifest, and even a glaring, impossibility. The proposition is a contradiction in its very terms. Omnipotence, consequently, is in its very nature an exclusive attribute.

It can belong to only one being. But further, Omnipotence is the prerogative of God. He, therefore, who is Omnipotent, is, in exact agreement with the Apostle's ascription to the Lord Jesus Christ, "OVER ALL, God blessed for ever" (Romans 9:5), and absolutely ALONE in His Supremacy, in His Omnipotence, in His Godhead. Consequently, the claim made by the Lord Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, to Omnipotence,--"All power is given unto ME in heaven and on earth"--when considered with the attention to which its transcendent character entitles it, is plainly seen to be a claim to Supreme and Sole Godhead, on the part of Him who made it.

Nor is this a claim standing by itself. Even if it were, its unequivocal transparency of significance would be amply sufficient to establish the Sole and Absolute Deity of the Savior; but it is not. We find

that this same Jesus, when about to communicate His own wonderful and special Revelation--"the Revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1)--to "the beloved disciple," and appearing to him with that object, in His glorious Divine - Human form, subsequently described in such graphic detail (vers. 12-16), announced Himself to him in these terms: "I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, SAITH THE LORD, who is, and who was, and who is to come, THE ALMIGHTY" (v. 8).

It is not, however, to the Divine prerogative of Omnipotence, only, that the Lord lays claim, or that claim is laid on His behalf, in the New Testament Scriptures, but to numerous other exclusively Divine prerogatives also.

He was "called Jesus" because He should "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21); and SALVATION FROM SIN must, of obvious necessity, be within the power of God only. No man can save himself, much less can any man save another, from his sins. FORGIVENESS OF SIN, again - forgiveness, that is, that avails for salvation - is, plainly, in the power of none but God. Yet, "Jesus saith unto the sick of the palsy, Son, THY SINS BE FORGIVEN THEE" (Mark 2:5); and, when certain of the scribes, hearing this, said in their hearts - with unimpeachable truth--"Who can forgive sins but God only?" (ver. 7), Jesus neither attempted to deny their principle that none but God can forgive sins, nor yet to explain away His own assumption of that power, but, on the contrary, went on to furnish a demonstration "that the Son of Man HATH POWER on earth to forgive sins" (ver. 10); and did so. This reiteration and emphasizing of the power of the "Son of Man" to forgive sins, is, in most substantial effect, a claim to be the One Being - namely, God - who is possessed of sin-forgiving power. When, again, the Lord made the solemn claim, "I and My Father are One" (John 10:30), and the Jews took up stones to stone Him for it, on the ground that, in so doing, He, "being a man"--in their opinion--"MADE HIMSELF GOD" (John 10:33), He, far from repudiating the charge of making such a claim, treated it as a perfectly natural claim for Him to make, and one which ought to - and, if they had believed Him to be the "Son of God," would - have occasioned them no surprise.

On another occasion, He applied to Himself the most sacred of all the Divine names--"I Am"--which carried with it the implication of absolutely Supreme and Eternal Godhead, in the astonishing statement, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). Once more, although He Himself rebuked the young lawyer for addressing one whom he did not believe to be God, as "Good Master," on the ground that "None is good but One, that is, God" (Matthew 19:17), He, nevertheless, laid claim Himself to this goodness as His, which, He said, was God's only. "Which of you," He said to the Jews, "convinceth Me of sin?" (John 8:46). And this claim to perfect SINLESSNESS, or ABSOLUTE GOODNESS, not possibly predicable of infirm human nature, but only of the Divine--"that is, God"--is also made in equally emphatic terms, on His behalf, by the Apostle: "He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet WITHOUT SIN" (Hebrews 4:15). He claimed, therefore, and it was claimed for Him, that He was sinless, thus absolutely GOOD, which, He Himself has taught us, is the case only with God; and, in doing so, He, by inevitable implication, claimed to be God. He declared, once more, that He had LIFE IN HIMSELF, even as the Father had, and as no creature can have - every creature drawing his life, moment by moment, from God: "For AS the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given to the SOON to have life in Himself" (John 5:26).

He claimed the POWER OF RAISING THE DEAD and CAUSING THEM TO LIVE obviously an exclusively Divine and incommunicable power: "For AS the Father raiseth up the dead and quickeneth them, EVEN

so the Son quickeneth whom He will (John 5:21). And even stronger, if possible, than this, is His express claim, "I AM the RESURRECTION and the LIFE" (John 11:25). Similarly, the power and authority of JUDGMENT to eternal life or death, which belongs, with equal certainty, to the one "judge of all the earth" (Genesis 18:25), even God Himself, alone, the Lord declares to belong to Him: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed ALL JUDGMENT unto THE SON, that all men should honor the Son, EVEN as they honor the Father" (John 5:22, 23)-that is, of course, AS GOD. He claims, again, to be the ANSWERER OF PRAYER "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My Name, THAT WILL I DO, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I WILL DO IT" (John 14:13, 14). He claims, too, to be the SENDER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: "When the Comforter is come, WHOM I WILL SEND UNTO YOU from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me" (John 15:26). And, finally, for this occasion, He declared Himself the Possessor of supreme power over the human race, and the Dispenser of Eternal Life: "Thou hast given Him [that is, the Son] power over all flesh, that HE should GIVE ETERNAL LIFE to as many as Thou hast given Him" (John 107, 2).

In these Scriptures, then, we have the unequivocal ascription to the LORD JESUS CHRIST of the following list of Divine Prerogatives: Absolute Omnipotence, constituting Him "The Almighty" (Revelation 1:8); Salvation; Forgiveness of Sins; Identity with the Father, by "making Himself GOD"; Infinite and Eternal Godhead under the Sacred Name "I AM"; Sinlessness, or Absolute Goodness; Life in Himself; Raising the dead and causing them to live; that He is "the Resurrection and the Life"; judgment; Answering of Prayer; the Sending of the Holy Spirit; the Conferring of Eternal Life.

No one who reflects upon these powers and characteristics, ascribed to the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament, can have the smallest doubt that they are characteristics and powers, which cannot, in their very nature, belong to, or be possessed by, any but God. Every one of them is a manifest, a necessary, and an inalienable attribute of Deity. No being destitute of these attributes could be God. Any Being possessed of them must needs be God, and cannot be anything less. To ascribe them to any being not God, were blasphemy. To deny the Godhead of any being possessed of them, would be both insane and wicked. They are all of them ascribed, in the New Testament, to the Lord Jesus Christ. He, therefore, is, according to the teaching of the Sacred Volume, "the true God and Eternal Life" (1 John 5:20).

Most of these Divine prerogatives, however, are ascribed, it is well known, in the Word of the Old Testament, to Jehovah, who is called "the Father" in the New Testament; and some of them are represented, even in the New Testament, as being given to "the Son" by the Father. What are we to understand by this? Since they are possessed by "the Father," "the Father" is, certainly, the true God. Every obligation of reason binds us to this conclusion. Since they are possessed by "the Son," or the Lord Jesus Christ, He is certainly God. Are there, then, two Gods? Impossible. Hear, O Israel, the Lord thy God is ONE Lord" (Mark 12:29; Deuteronomy 6:4), is the language as much of the New Testament as of the Old. Has "the Father," in conferring these Divine Prerogatives upon "the Son," then stripped Himself of them, and thus Himself ceased to be God, that is, ceased to be altogether?--for, for one who is God to cease to be God, is inevitably to cease to be. Or, has He, on the other hand, simply shared them with "the Son," and thus divided the Godhead with Him?

The former of these alternatives must, of course, be summarily rejected, as alike repugnant to reason,

and at variance with the continued representation of "The Father" as God, up to the very end of the New Testament. The latter, then, is the only one that can be for a moment entertained; and there are probably many who would say that even this cannot be entertained - no, not for one moment.

As, however, it is difficult to see how many others, holding the doctrines they do respecting the Godhead of the Father and the Son, can do anything else than not only entertain it but believe it, let us give it a moment's consideration.

We just remind ourselves, in passing, that at least one of these attributes - namely, Omnipotence - cannot, as we have seen, possibly be shared: to divide it is to abolish it: to partition all-power between two can only result in each possessing part - power, however vast that may be, and neither - and, in this case, no one-possessing all-power, or Omnipotence. But we are not left to this mere conclusion of reason, irresistible though it is. All will recognize that these Divine attributes and prerogatives constitute the distinctive "glory" of God. And respecting His "glory," Jehovah, or "the Father," has declared: "I am Jehovah; that is My name; and My glory will I NOT give TO ANOTHER" (Isaiah 42:8).

Now, "the Father" did "give" a number of those Divine attributes which constitute His "glory" to the Lord Jesus Christ. What is the inference? If the testimony of the Divine Word on the matter is accepted - and the New Church, at all events, accepts it implicitly, and takes its stand upon it - only one inference is possible; and that is, be the appearance what it may, and be the difficulties what they may, that the Lord Jesus Christ is not "another" than the Father, that is, is no other than the Father Himself. In other words, we are compelled to take our Lord's own assurance, "I and My Father are ONE" (John 10:30), as expressing the absolute, literal truth on the subject, and as meaning that He is not, in any sense, "another" than the Father, but the same, and, consequently, the Father Himself, even though in another form or manifestation, namely, "in the flesh."

On any other construction of this momentous affirmation, Jehovah, in "giving"--to use the New Testament expression - to the Lord the various Divine prerogatives which the Lord said the Father did give Him, would have been giving His "glory" to another, contrary to His own positive declaration. The more it is contemplated, in the light of the express teachings and the whole tenor of the Word of God, the more clearly and boldly the truth stands forth that the Lord Jesus was, according to prophecy, "THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER"--or, to be quite literal, "THE FATTIER OF ETERNITY" (Isaiah 9:6); or, again, the more indubitable it becomes, to adopt the language of the Writings of the New Church, "that God is ONE, in whom is a Divine Trinity, and that He is the Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ."

It may be urged that this view has its difficulties. In reply, we would venture to submit that this is not a "view": it is the crowning truth of the Word of God on this highest and profoundest of all subjects. It is the teaching and the plain import of numerous Scriptures; and, if this import be not allowed, the various Scriptures concerned must be either altogether denied and rejected, or else shorn of all significance whatsoever.

But that there are many allusions, representations, and appearances in the Divine Word, which it is difficult to reconcile with this truth, we readily admit. The following are some of these difficulties. To begin with, there is the fact that the New Testament habitually refers to our Lord as "the Son," and to God as His "Father." The question almost inevitably arises in the mind when this fact is remembered,

and when it is remembered also that He declares that-"He and the Father are ONE. Is it possible for a father and a son to be one and the same? Can anyone be his own son? and, still more perplexing, can he be-and this at the same time-his own Father? Other difficulties arising out of the great truth that the Lord Jesus Christ is God, and the Only God, are the following Was God" born" nineteen hundred years ago?--for Jesus was (see Luke 2:1-7). Had God a mother for Jesus had (John 2:1, and numerous other places). Did God "grow in wisdom, and in stature, and in favor with God and man"?--for Jesus did this (Luke ii: 52). Is God ever "hungry"?--for Jesus "hungered" (Matthew 21:18). Does God sleep?--Jesus slept (Matthew 8:24). Does God suffer "agony"?--Jesus did (Luke 22:44). Was God "scourged"? Was God "crucified"?--Jesus endured both these things. Did God DIE eighteen hundred and sixty-nine years ago?--Jesus did. Does God need to "pray"?--Jesus prayed (Luke 22:41). Can God be "tempted"?--the Apostle declares that "God cannot be tempted with evil" (James 1:13). Yet Jesus was tempted (Matthew 4:1-11).

It may be admitted, that, at first sight, throe difficulties look somewhat formidable. Our readers will probably be astonished, however, to find how trifling they become, and how easily they are resolved, when viewed from the standpoint of the true doctrine of the Trinity and the Godhead, unfolded in our last paper, and in this.

The first thing to be borne in mind in considering them is, that according to the Divine Word, the Lord Jesus Christ is "the Mighty God, the Father of Eternity" (Isaiah 9:6), Omnipotent "in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18), "the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8), and that, although there is a distinction between "the Son" and "the Father," it is not a distinction of Person - for it is precisely as to Person that "He and the Father are ONE"--but solely a distinction answering to that between the "soul" and the "body" in man. The Trinity of the Scriptures, be it once more insisted, is not a Trinity of three Persons, but a Trinity of Soul, Body, and forth-flowing Activity in One Person. In contemplating this subject, therefore; in the consideration of the difficulties attending its full comprehension, we must keep this truth - the rational and Scriptural certainty of which is, surely, beyond question with those who have followed us thus far!--clearly and immovably before our eyes.

In approaching the difficulty which we place at the head of the list - How could the same Lord Jesus Christ be both "Father" and "Son"?--we remember, then, that "the Father" was the Soul of the Lord Jesus Christ, and "the Son" His Body.

"The Father," too, being the intrinsically invisible God, whom "the Son brought forth to view" (John 1:18), was Divine both before and during the whole of the Lord's life in the world; whereas the Body, which was "the Son," inasmuch as it was born of a human mother, was at first merely human, and in fact a trite human nature such as ours, and subject, therefore, to human experiences and vicissitudes; and this only became "Divine," as it was "glorified" (John 17, i), and Omnipotent over heaven and earth, "the Almighty," when its "glorification" was finally completed. There was in the Lord, therefore, during His earthly life, two elements or natures: a Divine element or nature, which was nothing else than the Eternal Godhead, and a human element or nature, which was the humanity or manhood, with which the Eternal Godhead clothed Itself in and through the human mother, Mary, and which was born of her. The Divine element, moreover, or "the Father," was the Soul by which the Body, or human element, was animated, or, which did and said everything that passed forth to the view and hearing of men from that visible human element; and "the Son" was the Body, or that visible human element

itself. But there was only one "Person" there; and all of that "Person" that was seen, and all of that Person that is described, or depicted in the Gospel story, was the outward, visible, human aspect of it.

Keeping this in mind, we can easily see that the personal pronouns would be used by the Lord, and of Him, sometimes from the standpoint of His Divinity, and sometimes from the standpoint of His Humanity. Just so do we speak of ourselves. I should say, "I have cut myself"; and I should mean, and every one would understand me to mean, that I have cut my body: it would never be imagined that I had cut my soul. Again, when I say, "I am very sorry for you," I mean that my soul experiences the affection of sorrow: no one would dream of understanding me to mean that my body experienced "sorrow." "I am hungry," similarly means that my body hungers, or requires material food, not that my soul is in need of such food. "I ache all over," again, means that my body aches. "The man died," means that the body of the man in question ceased to live - not that his soul ceased to live. The proposition, "I am mortal; for I am a man," is true or false, according as the "I" stands for the body or the soul. If it stands for the body, it is true; for that is mortal, and it is characteristic of man that his body is mortal. If the "I" stands for the soul, the proposition is false; for it is characteristic of man that his soul is immortal. And, similarly, the proposition, "I am immortal; for I am a man," is either true or false according as the "I" stands for the soul or the body.

It is manifest, therefore, that, owing to our composite structure of "soul" and "body," we may speak from the standpoint of either our soul or our body under precisely the same form of expression; and interpretation is necessary in order to know which of those standpoints is intended by the speaker.

We also speak of others in the same manner and under precisely the same conditions; so that interpretation is always necessary to a true understanding of any statement respecting a man; and this because he is composed of soul and body.

The case must needs be similar in relation to the One Divine-Human Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. In some of the things spoken of Him, in the Sacred Scriptures, His Divine Soul - which, spoken of distinctively, is called "the Father"--is referred to; in some, His Human nature - distinctively called "the Son"--is meant; and in some again, the reference is to the total Divine-Human Personality.

But, while the personal pronouns used of the Lord Jesus Christ in the New Testament, and also the name "Jesus" and the title "Lord," may stand for either His Divine Soul separately, His human nature separately, or His composite Divine-human Personality, this is, never the case with the terms "Father" and Son. Each of these terms is invariably used in its distinctive sense; and, in that sense, "the Father" is the Divine element, or the Soul, and "the Son" the human element, or Body, of the composite Divine-Human Person whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ.

This firmly grasped, the imagined "difficulty"--How can the Lord be both Father and Son?--is seen to be no difficulty at all.

"The Lord" is the total Divine-Human Person; "the Father" is the indwelling Soul of that Divine-Human Person, and "the Son" is His outstanding Body. And that the soul is related to the body in a manner most fitly represented by the relation of a father to a son was discerned by the poet Spenser, and the perception preserved for us in the lines,

"For of the soul the body form doth take;

For soul is form, and doth the body make."

And the intuition is confirmed, beyond a doubt, by the single consideration, that acts, which belong to the "body," are invariably, and of necessity, the offspring of intentions and thoughts, which belong to the "soul." The things of the body being the offspring of things of the soul, and the things of the soul the parents of the things of the body, is an indication of the truth, that, in the process of birth, the soul is first created, and afterwards, and by means of the soul, the body. In this point of view, therefore, the soul is seen to be "the father" of the body, and the body to be "the son" of the soul. And when we bear in mind the further fact that the Lord's human nature, born in time, had, according to the gospel narratives (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:34-5), no other "father" than the Infinite and Eternal Deity Itself, which became its "soul," the appropriateness of signifying that Divine Soul by "the Father," and the humanity which was actually born of it by "the Son," is at once manifest.

The supposed corollary of this difficulty - Can anyone be his own son? or his own father? simply vanishes, in the light of this point of view, into thin air, of its own accord.

There is no question of the Lord being His own "Son," or His own "Father," but of His Soul, which was the Eternal Deity Itself, being the "Father" of His body, which was His human nature, and which was born of the Divine as a Father and of the Virgin Mary as a mother.

And every one of the remaining difficulties yields, with at least equal ease, to the same point of view. Thus: GOD was not born. GOD did not grow. GOD had not a mother. GOD is never hungry. GOD does not sleep. GOD cannot suffer agony. GOD was not scourged, nor crucified, nor pierced with nails or spear. GOD did not die. GOD does not need to pray; nor did He ever do so. And, finally, GOD was not tempted. Nor does the fact that these things all happened to Jesus, in the smallest degree imply that they happened to God. They all happened to Him as to His Body, or the human element of His Soul, or its Divine element. It was His Soul, or the Divine element that was God: His body, or the human element, was man, and, as man, liable to, and capable of, every one of the purely human experiences which it underwent, and its undergoing of which furnishes the occasion of the difficulties we are now considering, or may we not say? which have now been, at any rate, in general, disposed of.

It should be remembered that even the human nature, when glorified, became Divine, or the manhood God, and that it is so now.

But this was the case only subsequently to the crucifixion and resurrection, when Jesus entered into His glory (Luke 24:26). Until then, it was human, imperfect and infirm; and it was in this state and capacity that it learned obedience (Heb. V. 8), and was MADE PERFECT through sufferings (Hebrews 1:10), and could and did suffer and do the many things above enumerated.

The subject cannot, however, be seen in the limpid clearness which is desirable, and which the doctrines of the New Church make possible, without a knowledge and understanding of the doctrine of the wonderful miracle of the Incarnation of God in Christ, which will be the subject of our next chapter. That will clear up every shadow of difficulty in connection with this great subject.

VII. The Necessity for the Incarnation.

AS it is impossible to "know" that supreme mystery of the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 13, ii), the Incarnation of the Eternal God in human flesh in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, without some preliminary comprehension of why so transcendent a miracle should have been wrought at all, we place at the threshold of the present inquiry. "The faith of the New Heaven and the New Church in its universal form" (True Christian Religion, n. 2) in reference to this subject. It is as follows--"It is a universal of faith that no flesh could have been saved unless the Lord had come into the world. It is a universal of faith that He came into the world to remove hell from man, which He effected by combats against it, and victories over it, whereby He subjugated it, and reduced it to order, and under obedience to Himself. It is a universal of faith that He came into the world to glorify His Humanity which He put on in the world; that is, to unite it to the Divine from which it came forth: thus He keeps hell in order, and under obedience to eternity.

As this could not be effected except by means of the temptations wherewith He suffered His Humanity to be assailed, even to the last and most extreme of all, which was His Passion on the Cross, therefore He endured that suffering" (ibid.). And the reason why the Lord came into the world "to remove hell from man," affirmed in the extract just given, is stated immediately afterwards in the same work in the following terms--"At that time the power of hell preponderated over the power of heaven, and on earth the power of evil over the power of good; in consequence of which a total damnation impended and threatened every creature. This impending damnation Jehovah God averted by His Humanity, which was the Divine Truth, and thus redeemed both angels and men; and afterwards He united, in His Humanity, the Divine Truth with Divine Good, or the Divine Wisdom with the Divine Love, and thus returned into His Divinity in which He existed from eternity, together with, and in, His glorified Humanity" (ibid., n. 3).

We would draw attention, at the outset, to the unmistakableness of the truth, that, "unless the Lord had come into the world no flesh could have been saved." It is a well-known teaching of the Word of God, that the Humanity which God took upon Him by the Incarnation was the means of bringing salvation to men. That Humanity it is that is called the Son; and concerning it, it is written: "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him MIGHT BE SAVED" (John 3:17).

In face of this express assertion of the object for which the miracle of the Incarnation was wrought, it is impossible to believe otherwise than that the object could be attained only by that means. We should have a very poor opinion of the wisdom of a person who should call in the aid of a train of artillery to force open an ordinary house door, even though it were locked and the key lost. In fact, we should regard such an act as a sign that the man who did it was not in his right mind. Yet this act is a much less reflection upon the sanity of the perpetrator, than would be the performance by God of such a stupendous miracle as corning Himself into this world in a human form and nature, born of a human mother without the instrumentality of a human father, for any object whatsoever, if that object could possibly have been achieved without resort to such tremendous means. There can be little doubt, indeed, that the discernment of this truth, together with the lack of a knowledge of the existence of any condition of things at the time which could have made the salvation of men impossible without the performance of a miracle, is at the back of a great deal of the unreadiness to believe that God ever did thus miraculously come in the flesh, which not only exists, but is so rapidly increasing at the present

day. We emphasize, at the outset, therefore, the position, that the Incarnation was, in the spiritual condition into which the human race had fallen, indispensable to men's salvation. In the language of the Writings of the New Church, UNLESS the Lord had come into the world, no flesh could have been saved."

The next thing required is, to know what that condition was which could be remedied only by God Himself coming into the world as a man. The New Church teaches, as quoted above, that it was a "preponderance of the power of hell over the power of heaven, and on earth the power of evil over the power of good; in consequence of which a total damnation impended and threatened every creature." Such a statement may at first awaken incredulity, on the ground that it is commonly thought impossible that hell can have greater power than heaven. Still, there is the fact that our Lord Himself affirmed, in a statement hitherto involved in mystery, the existence of just such a condition of things, when He was in the world: "From the days of John the Baptist until now," He declared, "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence; and the violent take it by force," (Matthew 11:12; and, in so saying, He clearly represents heaven as being in a state of siege from a hostile power, and in at least imminent danger of falling a prey to the enemy. Now, it is certain that there is only one "power" that can be defined as hostile in relation to heaven, and that power is its opposite and antagonist, hell," most significantly designated by the Lord, in this place, "the violent." It is, therefore, a teaching of the Lord, as well as of the Doctrines of the New Church - a teaching, moreover, preserved to man for ever in the Divine Word-that, at the time of the Incarnation, hell was preponderating over heaven, and endangering its continuance.

However strongly such a thing may run counter to our notions, there is the Divine declaration; and we exceedingly difficult we believe, quite impossible - to get any of the declaration than that we have indicated. There is, besides, a very striking corroboration of this as the true force of the statement in question, in another hitherto uncomprehended utterance which fell from our Lord's lips on a subsequent occasion. When the seventy disciples whom He had sent "two and two before His face into every city and place whither He Himself would come" (Luke 10:1), returned from their mission, and reported to Him, "with joy," "Lord, even THE DEVILS ARE SUBJECT unto us, through Thy Name" (ver. 17), He made the apparently inconsequent and even irrelevant reply, "I beheld Satan as lightning FALL, FROM HEAVEN" (ver. 18). "Satan" is a name - as "the Devil" is a title - under which, in the Divine Word, the whole of the infernal powers, or "hell," are personified, and by which those powers are signified; and here is the Lord declaring to His disciples the repulse of those powers, or "Satan," from Heaven. Clearly, such repulse could never have occurred unless the infernal powers had been there - the very "violent one," at whose hands He had previously declared, the kingdom of heaven was in those days "suffering violence."

In these utterances, therefore, we have striking indications of the existence of that preponderance of hell as against heaven, which the Doctrines of the New Church affirm to have been the condition which made it necessary, in the interests of human salvation, for God to come into the world in the flesh. There is, at any rate, no questioning the fact that our Lord Himself declared, at the commencement of His ministry, that the "kingdom of heaven" was then "suffering violence" at the hands of its immemorial foe. Equally certain is it, that He Himself announced at least one repulse of that pitiless foe the violent--"Satan"--while he was in the active prosecution of His redeeming labors. And it is also certain - and assuredly in a high degree significant - that this announcement was called

forth by the report .given Him by the disciples, of the success with which they had wielded the "power over unclean spirits" with which he had endued them in sending them out to preach--"Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy Name."

So much, then, for specific Scriptures indicating the existence of a condition of things in which the hells were in assault, and to some extent successful assaultthe violent TAKE IT by forceagainst the heavens, to repulse and finally put down which, was one of the things which the Lord came on earth to effect. Most manifest is it, that the existence of such a state of things imperatively demanded putting down; for, when hell had, at that day, acquired such a degree of power against heaven as to evidently imperil its integrity and security, with what prospects of success could mortal man, in this lower sphere, hope to struggle against it?

We see, moreover, in one of the most striking features of the Gospel histories, the frightful extent of the power which hell exerted over men in the world - we refer to the phenomenon of "demoniacal possession." Unless the Gospels are mere "cunningly-devised fables," and are not "words of truth and soberness," possession by devils, or "unclean spirits," of the very bodies of men, so that the control of men's limbs, organs, muscles, speech, and actions was usurped by spirits of hell, was a FACT, and even a common fact, in the days of the Lord's presence in this world as a man. Accepting the plain and persistent testimony of the Word of the New Testament, we find that the power of infernal spirits, which, collectively, are "hell," over men - at all times great as regards their souls,--had, at that crisis in human history, extended itself, in numerous instances, even to their bodies and limbs. And when numbers of men are the helpless slaves of hell, not only as to their souls, but also as to their bodies, it is perfectly evident that the only issue, unless the dread ascendancy, is peremptorily overthrown, must be the eventual temporal and eternal destruction of the race. For it is to be well observed, that the bodily possession, dreadful and appalling though it is even in itself, was but the token and the evidence of, because the sequel to, a spiritual possession incalculably more awful, and so common as to be general.

And this ascendancy of hell over the souls of humanity at large, extending itself, in many instances, to the bodies, limbs, hands, feet, and tongues of individual human beings, was the condition the abolition of which was essential to human salvation. It is surely evident, that, in presence of such an ascendancy of hell over man, man's concurrent power to successfully combat his evils, and the possibility - we emphasize the word, and invite close rational reflection upon it-of his obtaining salvation "FROM his SINS," must have been perilously near the vanishing point. The necessary truth, in other words, of the declaration of the Doctrines of the New Church, that, "in consequence of" the "preponderance," at that time, "of the power of hell over the power of heaven, and, on earth, of the power of evil over the power of good, a total damnation impended, and threatened every creature," is surely evident!

"This impending damnation Jehovah God averted by His Humanity" (True Christian Religion, n. 3); "which He effected by combats against hell and victories over it; whereby He subjugated it, and reduced it to order and under obedience to Himself.... As this could not be accomplished except by paeans of the temptations wherewith He suffered Himself to be assailed, even to the last and most extreme of all, which was His passion on the Cross, therefore He endured that suffering" (ibid., n. 2).

That God did "avert the impending damnation" of mankind, and provide for the salvation of all who would, "by His Humanity," is the whole tenor of the New Testament - is, in fact, "the Gospel of our Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ." That, in the course of doing this, He engaged in combats against hell, or "the Devil," by submitting Himself to temptation "in all points," at the hands of infernal spirits; and that, in these combats, He uniformly achieved the victory, and thus acquired to Himself, in His Humanity, power over the hells to eternity - these things, also, are well-known truths of the New Testament Scriptures. And, by the same considerations as those by which it was established, at the outset of this paper, that "unless the Lord had come into the world no flesh could have been saved," we perceive, here, these three truths, namely, (1) that, unless God had overthrown the power of hell, the "impending damnation" could not have been averted; (2) that, unless God had engaged in actual combat with hell, its power could not have been overthrown; and (3) that, unless God had suffered Himself to be subjected to temptation, "in all points, like as we are," He could not have met hell in such actual combat. We add, as a final position, the truth of which we hope to demonstrate in our next truth that only by being born into this world as the roan Jesus Christ, thus by Incarnation, could God subject Himself to temptation.

We may, with earnest thought, perceive the truth of every one of these positions by a series of considerations, which shall start with the question: How had hell acquired this power over men which nothing but the Incarnation of Jehovah God was adequate to overthrow?

Well, how does hell - or, what is the same thing, how do evil spirits - acquire power over men? The answer is, by temptations to which men yield. For, just as truly as "the angels" (Hebrews 1:13) are "all MINISTERING spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" (ibid., ver. 14), so are devils and satans all tempting spirits, seeking to make all men the subjects of damnation, or, again, "going about seeking whom they may devour." And evil spirits tempt a man by stirring up his evil inclinations, and infusing persuasions to give them the rein in sinful actions; and if the man yields to the temptation, and commits the sin, the evil spirits - or hell - will wield a greater power over him, and he a less power against them, the next time they make their assault. If he then again yields, their power over him is still further increased, and his power of resistance is still further diminished; and so on, until, in the end, he is reduced to a condition in which he is incapable of resistance, and has become the helpless slave of tempting spirits, or of hell. We have only to look at the habitual drunkard, to see the whole tragedy in a type.

From the time when the human race first fell from their pristine state of spiritual integrity and purity, signified by "the Garden of Eden," by yielding to the temptation to eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," and, in so doing, gave origin to evil and thus also to hell, right on to the time of the Lord's coming into the world, the career of the human race had been one almost uninterrupted declension.

That, at any rate, is the unmistakable testimony of the Word of God on which, as we have before stated, the New Church takes its stand, in complete, because rationally satisfied confidence. In succeeding generations, the accumulated power of hell over men, and the inherited feebleness of men in the hands of hell, was still further increased; and so on, generation after generation. It is evident, then, that the cause and secret of the terrible and well-nigh absolute power of hell over men which made the Incarnation a necessity, was man's habitual yielding to, and all under, the temptations which the hells are continually infusing into him.

Our next enquiry must be, In what way could this ruinous ascendancy of hell be remedied?

It is commonly believed that God could quite easily have effected the necessary change, had He so chosen, by bringing His Omnipotence to bear - thus immediately reducing hell to impotence, and restoring man to spiritual capacity and strength. Even apart from the circumstance that the fact that He did not do this, is to some extent, an evidence that the thing could not be accomplished in this way, there is the most weighty consideration, that, if the evil could have been remedied by this means, it could, by the same means, have been prevented from ever coming into existence. And, to believe that God allowed evil when he could have prevented it by so simple a means, and that, having avoidably - that is, willfully - allowed it to come into too existence, He should then set to work to remove it by the very means which He might have used to so much better advantage in preventing it from ever coming to pass at all, is so grave a reflection upon the Goodness as well as the Wisdom of God, that it must be repugnant to every reverent mind.

The only conclusion consistent with the Divine Goodness is, that, for some fully sufficient reason, the evil could not either be prevented, or remedied by the direct action of the Divine Omnipotence. What that reason is, is a distinct question, which may form the subject of a subsequent chapter. In the meantime it is surely sufficiently manifest that the solution could not be furnished in the way we are here considering, which we are apt to consider so simple and easy.

The real solution of the question before us, may be found by a recollection of the way in which the evil was brought about. That was, as we have seen, by men in general yielding to the temptations which it is the constant occupation and delight of evil spirits to infuse into them, until, in the course of ages, they had made themselves the helpless slaves of hell.

Let us now ask ourselves the question, How might the terrible evil we are considering have been put an end to?

Supposing men had retained the inclination and ability to resist temptation, and triumph over it, and had consistently used their power for a succession of generations, it is evident that the result would have been the gradual overthrow of the ascendancy of hell, and the gradual restoration of mankind to spiritual power.

They had, however, neither the requisite inclination nor the requisite ability to do so.

Supposing, again, that a single individual had been able to do this, and had done it, it is equally evident that the power of hell over mankind in general would have received a check, however small that check might be.

But supposing, further, that this individual had been able to sustain temptation, offer resistance, and achieve victory, in respect to all the evils into which mankind had ever fallen, it is clear that he would have become for himself the conqueror and master of hell, and be able, as long as he had the inclination, to keep hell in subjection to himself.

And supposing, finally, such an individual to be able to place his power over hell at the disposal of other men, what would have been the result of that? Plainly, the solution of the problem; the abolition of man's helplessness as an irremediable state, and the overthrow of the usurped supremacy of the powers of darkness over the human race. The accomplishment of such a thing as this would

unquestionably have been the effective Redemption of men from the bondage of infernal spirits, and the establishment of a new order of things spiritual, under which, if he would only use his powers and avail himself of his opportunities, every man might be saved.

By such means, then, Redemption could have been accomplished, if only the means could be furnished.

Simply looking at the nature of the work that must be accomplished to provide the means, is sufficient to prove to everyone that it is beyond the power of any man to effect. The Lord Himself has declared, "I Jehovah, am thy Savior and thy Redeemer" (Isaiah 60:16). And again: "And He saw that there was no than, and wondered that there was no intercessor therefore, His arm brought salvation unto Him; and His righteousness, it sustained Him" (Isaiah 59:16). And the direct exercise of His Divine Omnipotence being, as has been shown, out of the question, here is a way in which the power of hell could be brought low. If only God could meet the hells in the field of human temptation in which they had acquired their supremacy over man, Redemption would be accomplished, and the impending damnation of every creature be averted.

The crucial point, however, is, that it is only in temptation combats that this possible mode of Redemption - the only mode, moreover, which we can see to be possible-could be provided. And "God" cannot be tempted with evil" (James 1:13). Unless, therefore, God could by some means render Himself accessible to temptations - which He is not, and cannot be, in His Infinite and Eternal Deity-Redemption could not by this means be accomplished. On the other hand, if God could in any way bring Himself within reach of temptation - the field in which the hells wielded their destructive supremacy - Redemption would be an accomplished fact, and men could be saved.

In this chapter we have endeavored to show what the spiritual conditions were that made Redemption necessary, and how those conditions came into existence; that they could not be remedied by the direct exercise of the Divine Omnipotence alone; that, nevertheless, Omnipotence was necessary to the accomplishment of the gigantic task; and that, if only means could be provided by which God could be brought face to face with hell in a temptation - warfare, the work of Redemption, gigantic though it is, could - and would - be accomplished. It will be the object of our next chapter to show that that means could be furnished by the Incarnation of God in a real human nature, and by that means alone; and that, and how, it actually was so provided.

VIII. A Rational Doctrine of the Incarnation.

WE endeavored, in our last chapter, to establish the position that, in the terrible state of helpless enslavement to hell into which mankind had at length come, as the result of numberless generations of ready compliance with the suggestions and temptations of "the Devil," nothing but Omnipotence was equal to the task of Redemption, and, at the same time, that Omnipotence could not operate directly to terminate the usurped supremacy of hell over man.

The certainty of the latter of these points, we rested chiefly upon the consideration that God did not resort to this means to accomplish the end; and we confirmed it by the further consideration, that, if God could have remedied the evil in this way, He could equally have prevented it in the same way. The fact, however, stares us in the face, that He did not resort to the direct and arbitrary application of His Omnipotence, either to prevent the evil from arising, or to remedy it when it had arisen: a fact which is, surely, strong a priori proof that this mode of dealing with the disorder was not possible, and, therefore, cannot be entertained by the reverent rational mind as tenable hypothesis.

But a glimpse of the reason why, will serve to strengthen us in this irresistible negative conclusion, and give us that something positive to go upon, which the rational mind so dearly and legitimately loves. This reason why, is revealed in the following teaching of the New Church

The reason why it was necessary for God to become incarnate, that is, to be made man in order to effect Redemption, is, because Jehovah God, such as He is in His Infinite essence, cannot approach unto hell, much less enter it, inasmuch as He is, in that essence, in purest and first principles; therefore, since Jehovah in Himself is such, if He had only breathed upon the inhabitants of hell, it would have deprived them instantly of life; for He said to Moses, who was desirous of seeing Him "Thou canst not see My face; for there shall no man see Me and live" (Exodus 33:20); and, if Moses could not see Him, much less could the infernal spirits, who, being in the lowest degree natural, are in last and grossest states, and thus in such as are most remote from God (True Christian Religion, n. 124).

The inevitable consequence of the immediate operation of the Divine Omnipotence upon the hells, in order to deprive them of their ascendancy over men - which would have been the immediate presence of God Himself, in His Infinite essence, face to face with hell - would thus have been the utter annihilation of those there; and, inasmuch as hell is made up of "all those who, from the creation of the world, have alienated themselves from God by evils of life and falsities of faith" (@TCR, n. 123), and thus, of the misguided men and women from the natural world, who, in spite of all Divine efforts to the contrary, have perversely made their final bed in hell, it cannot possibly be consistent with God's loving purposes, which, like "His tender mercies, are over all His works," to thus blast into mere nothingness even the hells.

Because, then, this would have been the result of bringing the Divine Omnipotence directly to bear for the cancellation of the supremacy of hell over men - which, nevertheless, had to be put an end to, somehow - and such a result is not compatible with either the Divine Love or the Divine Wisdom of God, therefore this anode of solution was not open. Another, consequently, had to be found.

It is obvious, and it was the effort of our last chapter to show, that the mode must have been one that

was adapted to the nature of the situation to be grappled with, the salient feature of which was that the sphere of hell's ascendancy was that of temptation. It was in the field of temptation that hell had gained its supremacy, and that mankind had lost its power and validity: it was in the field of temptation, therefore, under the normal conditions of temptation-combat, that hell needed to be met, fought, defeated, and utterly and finally subjugated, if man's Redemption was to be wrought. And the opposing power had to be Divine; and, consequently, the opposing Being had to be God, "the Almighty," Himself.

The first requisite, therefore, was that God should render Himself accessible to temptation; because, in His intrinsic nature, or in His Infinite essence, "God cannot be tempted with evil; ... but every man is tempted, when he is carried away of his own lust and enticed" (James 1:13-14).

This principle at once furnishes one of the reasons why God cannot be tempted, and one of the conditions to which it was necessary for Him to subject Himself in order to become amenable to temptation. He has no "lust" by which He can be "carried away and enticed"; in other words, He is destitute of all temptable elements. Apart from such elements, real temptation is a plain impossibility. To become temptable, therefore, God would have to take upon Himself, in some way, from a source outside Himself, those "lusts" for evil, in the shape, at least, of inclinations and predispositions towards it, the "carrying away" and "enticement" by which are temptation.

Now, where are such "lusts" to be found? Where, alone, in the whole universe, do the conditions exist in which spiritual temptation to evil is a possibility? There is only one possible answer: in human nature. We reach the conclusion, then, that the only way in which God could bring Himself within reach of temptation, and at the same time make His Omnipotence available in temptation - experiences, was by somehow bringing together, in one individuality, His eternal Divine Nature and a real temptable human nature - the human nature to supply the temptable elements and conditions, in the form of innate lusts, or actual tendencies, to evil and falsehood, and the Divine Nature to supply the Divine Omnipotence, the exercise of which the nature and magnitude of the work to be done imperatively demanded. God needed, then, to "put on" a bona-fide individual human nature, containing those tendencies and prepossessions to specific evils - and to all possible specific evils which actually constitute the temptableness of human nature.

It is evident, therefore, that, if God, somehow, be born a man, without ceasing to be God, or without dissociating His Essential Divine Nature from the superinduced human nature, the conditions necessary for the accomplishment of Redemption would be provided; for, it is by birth, under the laws of hereditary transmission, that we come into possession of our tendencies and predispositions to evil and falsity, as well as of all others; and there is absolutely no other way of coming into the possession of such - namely, evil - tendencies and predispositions.

The association, however, of the Divine and human elements, in such a Divine-human personality, must not be an open one, manifestly extant to both the elements of such personality. This is because one of the things that places God above and beyond all possibility of being tempted, is the fact that He is God, and, therefore, consciously Omnipotent; for no being so situated could be really tempted of any evil. In presence of the consciousness of Omnipotence on the part of the "tempted" being, temptation would obviously be a mere breath - a name - affording no parallel whatever to man's temptation, and, moreover, no possibility of the abolition of that helplessness in the face of temptation, which was the

real evil to be grappled with, and which man's constant fall under real temptation had brought about.

In order, therefore, to render even a Divine-human personality an available instrument for man's Redemption, it was necessary that it should be so constituted, that, at any rate when the human nature was passing through its temptations, the Divine should be veiled from its gaze, or should withdraw itself from perception; so that the sense of weakness in the presence of evil to be overcome, or of suffering to be endured (or fled)--apart from which, we repeat, no one can know what temptation is - might be possible, and would indeed inevitably arise. It is evident, that, in such a Divine-human personality, so constituted, the Omnipotent God could bring Himself face to face with hell, in the very field and stronghold of its malign power - the field of temptation - and thus place Himself in a position to redeem His backslidden children. Nor is it too much to say, that only so could Redemption have been wrought.

The ordinary human nature, born of a human father and human mother, under the ordinary conditions of human birth, would, plainly, not meet the necessities of this case. It must be a human nature, and yet a human nature entirely out of the common run; radically distinguished from every other human nature in the world's history. The ordinary human nature is human through and through, within and without; the human nature demanded by the conditions of the problem of Redemption, was one within which the Divine Nature should be really, though not manifestly, present. In fact, just such a nature was required as the Lord Jesus Christ plainly teaches us that He possessed: "The Father," He declared, "that DWELLETH IN ME, He doeth the works" (John 14:10).

Within the human nature or personality of Jesus, the Christ, there dwelt"--such is the clear and explicit teaching - God Himself, "the Father"; and He it was who was the real doer of all the works performed in, and manifested through, the human external. In our chapter on the Divine Trinity, we showed - and, we trust, conclusively - that the analogue, in man, of this relation between the Godhead and the manhood in the Jesus of the Gospels, is the relation between the soul and the body, and that, consequently, the "soul," in that personality, was none other than God Himself--"the Father."

Let us look at this aspect of the matter a little more closely. Every mere man has two parents, a father and a mother. He also has, as constituting his individuality, two parts, an inner part, or "soul," and an outer part, which includes the "body," and of which the body is the typical and characteristic feature. It is certain that each parent contributes his and her own share, to the formation of their joint offspring; and rational thought at once perceives that that share, in each case, is specific and unvarying. What if the two specific elements, respectively, of the human personality, above pointed out - the soul and the body - be the specific and unvarying contribution of the two parents, respectively? Certain it is, and perfectly well known, that the body of every child is formed within the body of the mother; and, consequently, that the mother contributes the "body."

It is demonstrable, also, from a variety of considerations which need not be here recited, that the body is contributed by the mother only, and that, in its contribution, the father has no share. Everything points to the conclusion that the formative element, that which moulds and shapes into a human body the materials supplied by the mother, is what, and all that, is contributed by the father; and, on the principle, advanced in another paper, that

1. . . of the Soul the Body Form doth take;

For Soul is Form, and doth the Body make,

it should seem that the father's contribution to the new individual must be the "soul." Such, in any case, is the express, authoritative teaching of the New Church. We read:

The soul, which is from the father, is the very man, and the body, which is from the mother, is not, in itself, man, but only by derivation from the soul, and is merely the clothing of the real man, composed of such materials as belong to the natural world; whereas the soul is composed of such substances as belong to the spiritual world.... There is in the seed of which everyone is conceived, a graft, or offset, of the father's soul in its fullness, enveloped in a kind of covering taken from natural elements, by which, in the womb of the mother, his body is formed; and this [that is, the body] may be after either the father or the mother's likeness - the true image of the father all the while remaining within, and constantly striving to unfold itself, which, if it cannot do in one generation, it effects in another (@TCR 103).

And application is made of this law, to the Incarnation, in the following terms:

With respect to the Lord, what was Divine appertaining to Him was from Jehovah, the Father, and what was human from the mother; and these two united are the Son of God (ibid. 92);

which is, of course, the very Divine-human personality of Jesus.

It is instructive to observe how entirely and exactly this doctrine, with all its consequences, fits in with, and illuminates, what we are taught in the Gospels about the birth of that "holy thing" which was called the "Son of God." The Divine Word of the New Testament teaches, in the clearest possible language, and with the utmost circumstantiality and precision of statement - so that there is absolutely no choice but either to accept it as the simple truth, or to reject it as falsehood - that Jesus, (1) had a human mother but no human father - and that (2) instead of a human father - and consequently contributing that element of His personality, which, in other cases, is contributed by the human father, namely, the soul - there was, with Him, the "Holy Spirit" and the Power of the Highest - Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the Power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; THEREFORE, also, that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of GOD" (Luke 1:35, 36).

It is important to notice, not only that the "soul" of the Divine-human personality, thus born into the world, was its "Divine element," as we have designated it, and thus that it was "Divine" in its quality and nature, but that it was the One Deity Himself.

It was not, in other words, a "graft, or offset," from the Divine Nature of the Father, as a man's soul is a "graft or offset from his father's soul in its fullness" (@TCR 103); for the Divine essence is not susceptible of such subdivision and thus multiplication - it is One and Indivisible, else there might be any number of Gods: the "soul" of the Divine-human Jesus was GOD; and no imaginary "God the Son born from eternity," either, but the One, Sole, Eternal God, "the Father" Himself. "THE FATHER that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works."

It is supposable that a difficulty may be experienced, by some, in conceiving how such a thing as a

child being born of a human mother, and yet having no human father, could possibly take place. The rational mind is not satisfied - though it may be silenced: but that is no advantage-with the announcement that of course it was a miracle, and that the mode of its happening-if, indeed, "mode" is not altogether incompatible with the idea of miracle - does not in the least affect its possibility. For, somehow, the very groundwork of all rational thought is, that things neither do themselves, nor are done by the creative Power of God just anyhow, but that all things, miracle or not, are the work of a Rational God operating in a rational manner, and thus in a manner capable of being comprehended by the rational mind of man. Thanks to the doctrines of the New Church, revealed by God out of heaven in these latter days, the manner of the great miracle of the Incarnation may be thus rationally comprehended.

To understand the manner of the miraculous, or extraordinary birth, it is necessary that we understand, and have clearly before our minds, the manner of an ordinary birth. What is the manner, or the law, of ordinary human birth, or propagation? Is it a male and female coming into a certain mutual relation on the physical plane - and nothing more? Surely, that is not the whole account of the matter! For, the issue of the relation is a living human being constituted of a soul and body, each comprising in itself innumerable and most marvelous organs, faculties, and powers. What gave that new soul and body, with their no less than miraculous capacities, being? Who made it? The man? The woman? Both the man and the woman together? None of these is a possible answer, for the rational mind, to the question, How came that new soul - and—body entity into being? Who made it? The only answer is, that it is the work of the One Creator, who is as indispensably concerned in the creation of new beings, through parents, by the mode of propagation, when the race had been started, as He was in the creation of the first of human beings at the beginning of the race. The operation of the Divine Creator is as indispensable now as it was then - the only difference is, that now it operates through the instrumentality of existing individuals of the race, and then it operated without that instrumentality.

The contrast, then, between the birth of Jesus and that of an ordinary human being is, that whereas, in the latter, God creates the new living creature through the instrumentality of two existing human beings - a man and a woman - in the case of the Incarnation, God created the Divine-human personality, afterwards named Jesus, through the instrumentality of only one existing human being - a woman, a virgin. It is most instructive to note, also, that the contrast between the birth of Jesus and the birth of a mere man is not so great as that between an ordinary being and the creation of the first human beings - which was, of course, of the necessity of the case, effected without any human instrumentality whatever. We may say, therefore, that, in a certain sense, the Incarnation was not so great a miracle as the creation of the first human beings - if the greatness of a miracle is to be estimated by the extent to which it dispenses with the usual means in the attainment of its end. In an ordinary birth, the ever-active Creator (1) gives to "a graft, or offset, from the soul" of a living man, a separate life, and thus forms the new individual soul; He then (2), through that soul, forms a suitable and accordant body within the body of the mother; and (3) as it were welds the two, by orderly processes, into a new creature. It is to be noted that God communicates life to the "soul-graft," by Himself flowing inmost into it, on a new and independent basis, and dwelling there; for He, alone, is Life. In the extraordinary birth of Jesus Christ, God Himself, the Life, (1) constituted Himself the "soul;" and, then, by means of the operation of His Spirit the Holy Spirit shall come upon thee

--He (2) formed a suitable and accordant body for Himself within the body of the Virgin Mary, and (3)

combined, as it were, Himself, as a "soul," with that body, by the usual orderly processes, into the Divine-human personality of the child Jesus. We think this, presentation of the subject will enable the earnest and thoughtful reader to have a rational and intelligible idea of the mode of the Incarnation.

Let us now, in conclusion, glance at one of the results of this mode - the only possible mode - by which God provided Himself with a human nature, in which to come into the world, and be "tempted in all points like as we are," for our Redemption from the preponderating power of hell.

Inmosty, within every man there must be God Himself as his ultimate life; for God, who alone is "Life in Himself," is, necessarily, the ultimate life of ALL that is; and unless He, with His Divine life, flowed into man, every moment, man would simply perish for lack of the supply of the uncreatable Life. In fact, when man does perish, or die, so far as his life in this world is concerned, it is simply because he has ceased to receive God's Life in his body.

The "soul" which a man receives from his father is not "life," but is the very first and innermost receptacle in his constitution, in which the Life which is constantly flowing forth from God is received; and the soul hands on, as it were, the life from God, which it thus receives, to the lower planes of the nature, in succession, even at length to the body itself.

With a man, therefore, that receptacle of life called the "soul" is human and finite, because from a human and finite source - a human father. In other words, the plane of the "soul" with an ordinary man is entirely created, human and finite: the Divine Life, with him, is above and beyond that plane, and thus a full degree farther away from the plane of his consciousness, than even his "soul" itself.

Now, with Jesus, there was nothing from a human source higher than the body, and the bodily plane of the spirit with its affections and thoughts. All above that, was, in Him, the Divine, or God, or "the Father;" so that, in Him, the Divine Life permanently dwelt an entire plane lower down than it does with any mere man, and was, consequently, together with its Omnipotence, Omniscience, and every other Divine Attribute, so much nearer to hand, so to speak, and so much more readily available, in the person of Jesus, than in any merely human being it ever has been or ever can be. Be it well observed, once more, that this distinction was the direct and inevitable consequence of the peculiarity of His conception and birth, as taking place without a human father.

This is exactly what we have previously seen the conditions of the problem of Redemption demanded. God made Himself accessible to temptation at the hands of the hells, by taking upon Himself a real human nature, containing all possible temptable elements;

He made His Omnipotence available to that human nature, in its temptations, by dwelling, as its "soul," a whole plane lower down, and nearer to consciousness than He does in any mere human being; and He provided both these conditions sine quibus non by employing the instrumentality of a human mother only, in the provision of the human nature with which He clothed Himself for coming into the world; and this, we may see, was the only way in which these conditions could have been secured.

In this way, then, was the Incarnation effected, and by this means did our Heavenly "Father" furnish Himself with an "arm" whereby He could "redeem His people from the hand of all, that hated them," and bring Salvation within their reach. And all that we read in the Gospels about the birth, growth,

sufferings, temptations, praying, and the gradual perfecting and eventual glorification of the humanity of Jesus, were, simply, the "Father of Eternity" "doing," in the humanity He had fashioned for Himself that He might do them, those "works" which were necessary for the Redemption of man. By this means, and to that end, was He "tempted in all points like as we are," in that human nature; by this means, and to that end, did He teach His human nature "obedience"; by this means, and to that end, was that human nature "perfected through its sufferings";

and by this means, and to that end, did the indwelling "Father" cause that human nature eventually to enter into its glory, and, when all was finished, to become the Divine-Human depository of all power in heaven and on earth, wherein, then, thenceforth and for ever, dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

IX. The Divine Humanity.

AFTER showing, in our paper on the Sole Godhead of the Lord Jesus Christ, the co-existence in Him of two natures, one Divine, the other human, we pointed out that "the human nature even, when glorified, became Divine, or the manhood God, and that it is so now." We also postulated that this has been the case "only subsequently to the Crucifixion and Resurrection, when Jesus entered into His glory (Luke 24:26). Until then, it was both human, imperfect, and infirm; and it was in this [earlier] state and capacity that it learned obedience [Hebrews 5:8], and was MADE PERFECT through sufferings, and could and did suffer, and do the many things" predicated of it (pp. 86, 7, 8). We intimated, at the same time, that this higher aspect of the subject could not be usefully dealt with, because not adequately grasped, until the true doctrine of the Incarnation had been set forth. But, as this doctrine was the theme of our last paper, the time has now come to revert to, and finish the consideration of, the subject of the absolute and exclusive Godhead of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The great aim of all our previous efforts in relation to the Divine-human personality of Jesus has been to present the utter distinctness which obtained between its Divine and human elements, during the Lord's life in the world. Apart from the clear discernment of this distinctness, many of the references and allusions contained in the Gospels, most of them coming from our Lord's own lips, cannot possibly be understood. This we illustrated at length in the paper referred to; and we showed, at the same time, how replete with meaning, and even how simple, such allusions become, when looked at from the point of view of the distinction which existed between the Divine and human elements of the personality of Jesus.

But it so happens that most of those allusions necessarily carry with them the implication of the non-Divinity of the human nature, and thus apparently involve the refutation of the idea that that human nature was God. And yet it was manifestly to His Human nature that our Lord referred when He announced, immediately prior to His Ascension, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18), and thus claimed Omnipotence in all worlds, and, of inevitable consequence, not only true and Absolute, but Sole Divinity, for it. In fact, it is His Human nature that is meant when Godhead is claimed for the Lord Jesus Christ by the New Church. Herein, in fact, lies the great difference between the New Church and those sections of the Old that affirm the Deity of the Lord.

The latter have in mind, when advocating the Lord's Divinity, His Divine nature, or a purely hypothetical "Son from eternity" as they call it, and not the son actually born in time of the Virgin Mary. Their thought, so far at least as they think from their doctrine, is that which is so clearly expressed in this statement of the Athanasian Creed: "our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man: God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the world; and Man of the substance of His mother, born in the world . . . Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and INFERIOR to the Father as touching His Manhood." The New Church, on the contrary, in the first place, utterly and unconditionally repudiates this "Son of God ... begotten before the world," as a figment of the theologic imagination of the fourth century, on the ground that the Godhead, or Divinity, which dwelt in Jesus, was not, according to the Holy Word, any "Son" at all - whether "from eternity" or not - but "the Father" (John 14:10, 11); and, in the second, it is concerned to affirm the present Divinity of the human nature of Jesus. We desire that it should be clearly recognized, in a word, that the New Church, in affirming the Godhead of the Lord Jesus Christ, is not concerned merely for the Godhead of the Divine nature

which "dwelt in" the Lord, for that - whether it is called the "Son of God from eternity," or, in accordance with the teaching of the Divine Word, "the Father" goes without saying; the New Church contends equally, and especially, for the Godhead of the human nature, in the explicit affirmation: "In Him [i.e., in the Lord Jesus Christ] MAN is GOD, and God is Man" (@TCR 103).

The appearance, from the present statement and our previous representations, is, therefore, that the doctrine we are endeavoring to expound as what the New Church teaches on this subject, both affirms and denies the Godhead of the human nature of Jesus, or, in other words, postulates both the Divinity and the non-Divinity of the Lord's humanity. This is the difficulty with which we are now confronted.

What is the solution? Curiously enough, the clue is found in immediate connection, in the Writings of the New Church, with their affirmation, cited above, of the Godhead of the Manhood in the Lord. Their fuller statement is

With respect to the Lord, He, during His abode in the world, by acts of Redemption, put off the whole humanity which He had from His mother, and put on a Humanity from the Father, which is the Divine Humanity; so that, in Him, Man is God, and God is Man (@TCR 103).

This summary, it will be observed, intimates the existence not only of the distinction between the Divine and the human natures, in the Lord, which we have previously dwelt upon, but of two distinct human natures: one from the mother with which he was born, and which, in fact, he "put on" by being born; and the other from the Father who "dwelt in" Him, which he did not have when born, and thus did not "put on" by birth, but which he acquired, or "put on," subsequently, and by some other process. There are here implied, we are desirous of pointing out, six distinct positions:

- (1) That the Lord, while in the world, had two "humanities."
- (2) That one of these "humanities" was derived from His human mother, the other from His Divine "Father."
- (3) That the Lord came into the possession of, or "put on," the former of these "humanities" at birth, and by birth; but of the latter not "at birth," but subsequently, and not "by birth," but by some other means.
- (4) That the Lord "put off," or discarded, the former of these "humanities," while He was in the world, and that, consequently, He does not now possess it.
- (5) That the only "humanity" the Lord now possesses is the second of the two here mentioned - the one from "the Father."
- (6) That this latter "humanity"--the one which was not from the human "mother," but from the Divine "Father," not "put on" at and by birth into the world, but at some later period, Grid in another way - is the one that is called the "Divine Humanity," the only one that now exists, and the only one of which GODHEAD is affirmed.

We venture to announce here that these positions, duly and understandingly entered into, will be found to resolve all the difficulties connected with the true and exclusive Deity of Jesus, which the New

Church teaches, and which is the very essence and the whole tenor of the teaching of the Divine Word: "The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy" (Revelation 19:10).

And we believe, too, that the truth-seeking reader of the considerations we are about to advance, will find himself led to an affirmative conclusion in regard to every one of the positions here laid down.

As far as the humanity which the Lord received at and by His birth from His mother, which we shall hereafter call the "infirm humanity," is concerned, all that has been said will receive assent, except that the Lord put this off, or discarded it, while He was in the world, and does not now, therefore, possess it. This is all, connected with the infirm humanity, that will occasion doubt or difficulty; and respecting this we will, for the present, content ourselves with citing the following important deliverance of the New Church Writings themselves on the point. They say--

It is believed, at this day, that the Lord, as to His humanity, not only was but also is the Son of Mary; but, in this, the Christian world is under a great mistake. That He was the Son of Mary is trace; but that He is so still is NOT TRUE; for, by acts of Redemption, He put off the humanity which He derived from His mother, and put on a humanity from His Father; in consequence of which, the Lord's humanity is Divine, and, in Him, God is man, and man God. That He put off the humanity from the mother, and put on a Humanity from the Father, which is the Divine Humanity, may appear evident from this circumstance, that He never called Mary His mother; as may be seen in the following passages: "The mother of Jesus saith unto Him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come" (John 2:3, 4); and in another place, "When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother!" (John 19:26, 27); and, at one time, we find that He did not acknowledge her to be His mother "It was told Him by some who said, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without, desiring to see Thee. And He saith unto them, My mother and My brethren are these who hear the Word of God, and do it" (Luke 8:20, 21).

Thus the Lord did not call her mother, but woman, and gave her to John for a mother; in other places she is, indeed, called mother, but not by Him. This is further confirmed from the circumstance that He did not allow that He was the Son of David; for we read in the Evangelists that "Jesus asked the Pharisees, saying, What think ye of the Christ? Whose Son is He? They say unto Him, David's. He saith unto them, How, then, doth David in spirit call Him his Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on My right hand until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool? If David, then, call Him Lord, how is He his Son? And no one was able to answer Him a word"--Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44; Psa. 110, 1 (@TCR 102).

All that requires to be noted here is, that it is not to be imagined that the Lord, in setting aside, or, at the least, in persistently refraining from acknowledging the motherhood of Mary, was doing so in reference to the humanity which he had, according to the Gospels, derived from her, and of which she was the mother. This is not supposable. The only conclusion is, that, besides the humanity which was from Mary, and of which she was the mother, there was in Him, at the time, another Humanity which was not from her, and of which she was not the mother; and that it was from this second humanity that the Lord was then speaking, and that He was very expressly teaching its nonhuman derivation, and hence quality. That this was really the case, and how it came to be so, will, we hope, become apparent as we proceed.

But there remain the difficulties connected with the second or Divine humanity which is postulated, which are (1) the question of its very existence; (2) the mode of its assumption, or "putting on," by Jesus; and (3) the question of its being Divine, not merely in the sense of belonging to, or being the property of, God, but in respect to its own intrinsic quality, essence, and origin.

To some minds the mere expression, "Divine Humanity," is a difficulty, and carries a contradiction in its terms. These points, also, will engage our attention.

In turning more directly to them, it is necessary that we remind ourselves of what we have already learned respecting the constitution of the personality of Jesus.

Like an ordinary man's, it was two-fold, consisting of (a) the soul and (b) the body, and that plane of the spirit, with its affections and thoughts, that is in immediate contact with the body. Like an ordinary man's, too, the body and bodily plane of the spirit, at birth, was from the mother; but the soul in Him, unlike man's, was not from His Father, it was His Father, that is, God: "THE FATHER that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works." Deity Itself, having with it all its Divine qualities, properties, and attributes - Omnipotence among the rest - was the soul of Jesus, which was allied with a humanly descended body and bodily plane of spirit, or humanity, in order that, in Him, Divine Omnipotence and temptable human infirmity might be together, to the end that the hells, by assailing the humanity, might bring themselves into conflict with and within reach of the very Divine Omnipotence, and thus be reduced to subjection by the only power in the universe capable of their subjugation, without, in the act, hurling them into annihilation. This, then, was how the altogether unique personality of Jesus was constituted and circumstanced.

It comes out most clearly, in the whole of the New Testament, that the hells, or the combined hordes of infernal spirits who constitute them, did come into conflict with the Lord, in the humanity He had taken in order that they should do so; and this, both in the way of temptation, and in the bodies of men whom they "possessed" who came in contact with Him in His humanity, and were exorcised by Him. The Lord was thus carrying on what we may call both a spiritual and a natural, or bodily, exorcism. He exorcised men's bodies of the devils who possessed them, and He exorcised His own "infirm" humanity of the devils who besieged and infested it at every possible point, and with all the power at their command; and, by this latter exorcism, He drove the hells from the closeness and intimacy of association with the spirits of men generally - a very nestling and dwelling in them - which constituted the spiritual obsession under which the entire race groaned.

And it would seem that the devils knew whom they were assailing: "We know Thee who Thou art: the Holy One of God" (Mark 1:24; see, also, Matthew 8:29). But they could no more help assailing Him than a moth can help rushing into the flame - though, probably, for different reasons. The very fact that He was God, and their knowing it, while it indeed inspired them with fear and terror, drove them to a frenzy of hatred.

For was there not now, for the first time in history, in that human nature - close to them, within reach of their hands, for them, if not to wreak their vengeance upon, at least to perish in concentrating all their powers, with diabolic fury and cunning, upon effort after effort to hurt, to torture, and to destroy Him - God Himself, hatred against whom is the inmost characteristic of all in hell? "This is the heir, come, let us kill Him, and the inheritance shall be ours," was the motto of all the infernal spirits, during

the whole time of the Lord's sojourn in the world, and, consequently, of His remaining within their reach.

Defeated time after time, they returned again and again to the attack, always in full strength; the whole infernal host combined in a cruel and determined league against the Captain of men's salvation, with such absolute unity of purpose and of action, that, in those Divine records which refer in their letter directly to the Lord's temptations, the assailants are not mentioned as "devils," or "spirits," or evil spirits," in the plural number, but as "the Devil" and "Satan"--as though the myriads of the infernals had constituted themselves, for the terrific occasion, ONE SINGLE diabolical person, who, by virtue of the strength which comes from unity, should prove, if possible, invincible to their hated Foe. We extract the following, for the purpose of showing the light in which the Writings of the New Church exhibit the Lord's temptations

That the Lord's life from His earliest childhood even to the last hour of His life in the world was a continual combat and a continual victory, is evident from several passages in the Word of the Old Testament.

That His temptations did not cease with His temptations in the wilderness, is also evident from these words in Luke: "After the devil had finished all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season" (iv, 13); and the same is evident from this, that He was tempted right up to the death on the Cross, consequently to the last hour of His life in the world. Hence it appears that the Lord's whole life in the world, from His earliest childhood, was a continual temptation and a continual victory; the close of which was when He prayed on the Cross for His enemies, consequently for all that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

In the Word of the life of the Lord, written by the Evangelists, no mention is made of any temptation except the last and that which He sustained in the wilderness.... The temptation which is related in Matt, iv.1-11, Mark i, 12, 13, Luke 4:1-13, contains a summary description of the Lord's temptations in general; showing, that, out of love towards the whole race of mankind, He fought against the loves of self and of the world with which the hells were replete.

In all temptation assault is made upon the love in which the man is, and the degree of temptation is according to the degree of the love. If no assault is made upon a love, there is no temptation. To destroy anyone's love is to destroy his very life, for the love is the life. The LORD'S life was love towards the whole human race, which was so great, and of such a kind, that it was nothing but PURE LOVE. Against this, His life, continual temptations were admitted, as already stated, from His earliest childhood to His last hour in the world. The love which was the Lord's veriest life, is signified, when it is said that "He hungered" [Matthew 4:23.... His continual victory is signified by its being said, after the temptation, that "angels came and ministered unto Him" (Matthew 4:1, 13). In short, from His earliest childhood even to the last hour of His life in the world, the Lord was assaulted by ALL THE HELLS, which were continually overcome, subdued and conquered by Him; which things He endured and accomplished solely from love towards the whole human race. Now, since this love is not human, but Divine, and all temptation is severe in proportion to the greatness of the love which is assaulted, it may be seen how grievous were His combats, and how great the ferocity with which the hells assailed Him. That these things were so. I know of a certainty (Arcana Coelestia, 1690).

And the immediate effect of these continual temptations and continual victories, sustained and achieved right on to the "It is finished" of Calvary, was, as previously intimated, that the hells in the spiritual world were driven away from "the kingdom of heaven," against which they were directing their "violence," and dislodged from the spirits and, in many cases, the very bodies of men, of which they had obtained a "possession" which left man their helpless tool. And, inasmuch as the Lord our Savior was thus "tempted IN ALL POINTS like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15), or, what is the same thing, inasmuch as His "continual temptations and continual victories" covered every possible spiritual evil that human flesh is heir to or can be assailed by, the dislodgment and repulse of the hells was complete, the absoluteness of their despotism was broken in every single direction, or, what is the same thing, the work of Redemption, which God had made Himself man in order to perform, was fully and perfectly accomplished. These temptation-conflicts were thus "acts of Redemption."

These "acts of Redemption," however, had another side, and another effect. Temptation, both with man and with the Lord, has two factors; there must be instigation from a source outside the personality of the tempted person, and there must be inclination within it. "A man is tempted," to appeal once more to the Apostolic doctrine, "when he is led away of his own lust and enticed" (James 1:14); and it is precisely this law, we remember, which made it necessary for God, in order to render Himself temptable by hell, to clothe His Godhead with a human nature full of the hereditary evils of all past generations of mankind, by being born into this world as a man, the offspring of a woman.

The Lord was tempted; He underwent every possible temptation to which man is liable. And in every case He conquered. In every case He inflicted upon the hells such a crushing defeat, that, in the direction of the evil in which they had been thus repulsed, they dared not even approach Him ever again. This follows from the nature of the case; for it was by the Divine Omnipotence that they had been vanquished; the Power that overcame them was the Infinite Power of the indwelling Godhead, but, out of love to the whole race of mankind, who then lay in their power, upon their complete subjugation. The attack was made, next time, in another direction, but with the same result, until, at length, the whole of the ground was covered; the hells were dispossessed of every inch, so to speak, of territory in the soul of man, and were driven back in all directions to within their own precincts; where their Divine Conqueror then "set bars and doors, and said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no farther; and here shall thy proud waves be stayed" (Job 38:10, 11).

This is what happened to the instigators of the Lord's temptation, the outside forces which put in motion the inhering lusts of the human nature, the activity of which is temptation.

What happened to, or became of, the second factor in the temptations - the inhering lusts, or inherited evils and falsities themselves, of the infirm humanity? Did they remain in it? Could they? What was the power that repulsed the tempting hells?

It was the Power of the Divinity within the humanity; that is, the Divine Power, or Omnipotence. The humanity had been assumed on purpose that, when assailed in temptation by the hells, the Divine Omnipotence might be brought to bear upon the evil spirits of hell for their subjugation, without involving, at the same time, their utter destruction. When the Lord actually was tempted, therefore, what took place was, that the hells stirred into activity that particular evil inclination, in His infirm humanity, by means of which they hoped to ensnare Him into sin; thereupon, the Lord, by means of some precept of the Divine Word which He held up for His humanity to obey and practice at this

juncture (see the record of the temptation in Matthew 4:4, 7, 10; Luke 4:4, 8, 12), summoned the Omnipotence of the indwelling "Father" to the conflict; and, then, that at once flowed forth into the human nature where the conflict was raging. There and then, consequently, the Divine Omnipotence was face to face, IMMEDIATELY, with the evil disposition, or lust, in the human nature itself, and mediately through that, with the tempting hells which were, from the other side of it, as it were, employing that evil as the means of bringing about the temptation.

We learned in our last chapter, that, had the Divine Omnipotence been brought to bear immediately upon, and the Infinite Divine Essence, consequently, brought into immediate contact with, the powers of darkness, the result would have been the instant, complete, and absolute annihilation of the evil spirits; and that this was why redemption could not be effected by such "immediate" application of the Infinite power of God.

What took place, in every temptation the Lord sustained, was this very immediate contact of the Divine Omnipotence with the evil, in the infirm humanity, in respect to which the Lord was being tempted at that moment. And this state of things having been brought about, be it noted, through the Lord in His humanity, and as if from His humanity also, having "lifted up" the "standard" of Divine Truth against "the enemy" (see Isaiah 59:19), not only must the Lord needs have been victorious, as in every instance He was, and the tempter have "DEPARTED from Him for a season" (Luke 4:13), but the evil itself of the infirm humanity which was then in the "immediate" presence of the Divine Omnipotence, must have at once undergone the utter extinction which inevitably waits upon immediate contact of the finite with the Infinite and Divine.

It is evident, therefore, to intelligent reflection upon the conditions which actually existed, that what we have here indicated was what took place, of necessity, in the Lord's temptations, and in every one of them, as they successively arose; until, at length, by the last temptation, on the Cross, this had happened in respect to every evil and false tendency and disposition which the Lord had inherited from His mother, and which constituted His infirm humanity. It is manifest, therefore, beyond doubt, that the Lord, by means of temptations He admitted into Himself, necessarily did "put off" every evil and falsity which He had originally "put on" by His birth from a human mother.

If that, therefore, were all that the Doctrines of the New Church affirm that the Lord "put off" when He was in the world, the point might safely be left as proved. But this is not all. The express position is:

With respect to the Lord, He, during His abode in this world, by acts of Redemption, put off the whole humanity which He had from His mother, and put on a Humanity from the Father, which is the Divine Humanity (True Christian Religion, 103).

What is meant by the Lord effecting the "putting off," in question, "by acts of Redemption," will, we think, be readily perceived from what has been already set forth in this paper; the point to be now settled is about the Lord "putting off" not only the evil and falsity which were in the infirm humanity, but that humanity itself, in its whole extent, and as to every detail. It will be evident, at a glance, that, unless this is what did occur, the Lord's humanity certainly could not be truly and absolutely Divine, but only nominally and approximately so; and, consequently, not OMNIPOTENT "in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18), not "the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8), not the TRUE GOD and eternal life" (I John 5:20).

The truth is, that the evil and falsity of the infirm humanity constituted, or was, that humanity itself. By this is meant that there was nothing in it, regarded as to its spiritual constituents, but what was evil and false; and this because there is nothing in any human nature whatsoever, of any other quality, when comparison is made with the absolutely Good and True, that is, with the Divine.

If even "the heavens are not clean in His sight" (Job 15:15)--that is to say, in very unequivocal reality and truth - how shall even the most highly regenerated character of a man in this world, where we are "lower than the angels" (Psalms 8:5), be so; and, still more, how shall any human nature in its unregenerated state - as every human nature is by birth, and as, consequently, was the infirm humanity the Lord "put on" by birth - be so? Regarded as a spiritual being, man is truly made up of his affections and thoughts, so that he is they and they are he. If comparison be made with God, therefore, there is not in any man or angel, and there was not, consequently, in the infirm humanity which the Lord put on by birth from His human mother, a single absolute good or a single absolute truth. Happily for us, God does not, in our case, make such comparison. "For he knoweth our frame: He remembereth that we are dust" (Psalms 103, 14). But, in the case of the Savior of men, the comparison was with the Divine, because, in Him, the Divine and the human co-existed in one Divine-human personality. With us, He mercifully casts a veil alike over His perfections and our frailties, and sheds abroad His Spirit upon us in such "measure" as we are able to bear. But in the case of the Savior of men, the comparison was with the Divine; for in Him the Divine and the human co-existed in one Divine and human personality.

Moreover, God gave not His Spirit "by measure" unto Him (John 3:34), but in all its own infinite fullness and intensity. And, although there was, at the first, a certain "veiling" of the "Holy Spirit" and of "the Power of the Highest" which dwelt in the Lord - otherwise, the human mother herself could not have sustained its "overshadowing" (see Luke 1:35) and lived - yet when, in temptation, the humanity, by "lifting up the standard" of the Word of God against "the enemy," called forth "the Power of the Highest" from its hiding-place within, the veil, so far as the egress of the indwelling Divine Power went, was removed, and that very Power itself, unveiled, was in the field. In being shown, therefore, that through His temptations the Lord "put off" every evil and falsity which He had originally "put on" by His birth from a human mother, it has, in reality, been shown that "He put off the whole humanity which He had from the mother."

It is plain, however, that this "putting off" of the infirm humanity was not the only thing that was taking place. The "putting off" of this humanity was the consequence of the indwelling Divinity, or "the Father," coming forth from its concealment within, into the arena of the temptation warfare without, which was the human nature. In doing this, the forthcoming Divinity instantaneously adapted, or accommodated itself, to the conditions into which it was coming; which, inasmuch as those conditions were human for the coming forth was into the plane of the outward, infirm, human nature was a process of humanization.

What came forth from the Deity within therefore, and fought, vanquished, and expelled that which originally was in the human nature without, was Divinity humanized; and when, thus adapted to the new sphere of its presence and operations, it had come forth and removed the particular infirmity of the humanity from the mother in respect to which the temptation of the particular moment existed, it established Itself where the expelled infirm human quality, or state, had been. The humanized Divinity

not only put away, in this process, the infirm humanity which had been taken from the mother; but it also took its place on the very plane of mans spiritual experiences in this world. Contemporaneously, therefore, with the putting off, or pulling down, of the infirm humanity, there was going on a process of putting on, or building up, of a Divine Humanity, which was manifestly derived from the Father within. And the ultimate outcome, when this two-sided process had been gone through, in respect to every quality, faculty, affection, thought, desire, evil, falsity, tendency, inclination, and state, in succession, of which the human nature was composed, could only be that the whole of the infirm humanity which was taken from the mother was discarded because utterly extinguished and no longer in existence and in its place an entire DIVINE Humanity put on from the Father which dwelt in the human nature, and "did" the whole "work";

and that this latter humanity, being the only one that now exists, is the only one that is, or can be, meant, when it is asserted that the Lord's humanity is Divine. This "putting on" in His human nature of the Divine Humanity from His Father was what the Lord meant when He spoke of being "glorified" (see John 7:39; 11, 4; 12, 16, 23, 28; 13, 31, 32; 14, 13; 17, 1, 4, 5). It was this Divine, or "glorified," Humanity thus successively "put on" from the Father in the world, that rose from the sepulcher, nothing being left behind therein; it is this that has "all power in heaven and on earth"; it is this that is "the Almighty"; this in which "dwelleth ALL THE FULNESS of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9), and, consequently, this "DIVINE Humanity" which is "the true God and eternal life."

And this "Divine Humanity" is so perfectly conjoined with the Essential Divinity, which is called "the Father," as to make an absolute Unit with it; so that "all that the Father hath is Its, and all that It has is the Father's," in very, unmodified, literal truth. In brief, this "Divine Humanity" is "the Father" clothed in a human nature taken up and "glorified" in the world, and dwelling, now and henceforth, not only "far above all heavens," and thus "in light inaccessible," beyond the immediate reach of poor frail man in the world, but in this "Divine Humanity" of His, immediately within the sphere of man's own human nature, and within reach of his very hand, if he will only stretch it forth.

The Incarnation, thus, not only redeemed man, but also, through the Lord's "glorification" of His humanity, then effected, established new and closer relations between God and man

Before His Coming into the world, the Lord was indeed present with the members of the Church, but His presence was then mediate through angels who represented Him; whereas, since His Coming, He is present with the members of the Church immediately; for during His abode in the world, He put on the Divine-Natural, in which He is now present with mankind (@TCR 109).

The momentous consequences to man resulting from this greater accessibility with which the Lord thus clothed Himself by the glorification of His humanity assumed in the world, will appear in our next chapters, in which we propose to set forth the teaching of the New Church respecting the "Atonement."

X. The Atonement: A Criticism.

IN the previous chapters of this series, we have almost entirely refrained from destructive criticism of other doctrines than those of the New Church on the subjects dealt with; not so much of set purpose as because there seemed no urgent necessity to discuss the subjects taken up in this manner. The subject of the Atonement is quite differently circumstanced. The teaching which has, for several centuries, been given to Christian men and women, and accepted by them, as the truth of God on this subject, is of such a nature, and in such incredible antagonism to every form of truth, human or Divine, that it seems impossible to proceed at all, without some preliminary labor of the iconoclastic sort. Indeed, it is not too much to say, as the Writings of the New Church do say, that the ordinary doctrine of the Atonement

is a fundamental error of the Church; and that that error, together with the error of three Divine Persons from eternity, has perverted the entire Church, so that there is not anything spiritual left remaining in it (True Christian Religion, 132).

We admit that this is a grave indictment, but that it is a true one we are profoundly convinced, and expect in the present chapter to show.

We would remark, at the outset, that, at any rate, in the common acceptation, the two terms, Redemption and Atonement, indicate not two things, but one; and the one thing thus indicated is the Lord's death on the Cross. And the Passion of the Cross is called the "Atonement" in respect to its supposed effect of appeasing the wrath of God the Father against men on account of their sins, in that, by dying on the Cross, "God the Son" endured punishment which those sins merited. Now,

What doctrine more abounds in the books of the orthodox at this day, or what is more zealously taught, or insisted on, in the schools of Divinity, or more constantly preached and cried up in the pulpit, than this: that God the Father, being full of wrath against mankind, not only separated them from Himself, but also sentenced them to eternal damnation, and thus excommunicated them from His favor: but, because He was gracious, that He persuaded, or stirred up, His Son to descend and take upon Himself the appointed curse, and so to expiate the wrath of His Father; and that thus, and no otherwise, could the Father be prevailed upon to look again with an eye of mercy on mankind? Likewise, that this was effected by the Son, who, in taking upon Himself the curse pronounced against men, suffered Himself to be scourged by the Jews, to be spit upon, and lastly to be crucified as the accursed of God (Deuteronomy 21:23), and that, by this means, the Father was appeased, and, out of love towards His Son, cancelled the sentence of damnation - yet only in favor of those for whom the Son should intercede, who was thus to be a perpetual Mediator in the presence of the Father (@TCR 132).

This statement was written one hundred and twenty years ago; but, as to its substance, it is just as true at this day as it was then. In proof of this, we refer the reader to the well-known work sent forth, in the present decade, by a group of Oxford scholars under the title *Lux Mundi*. In this modern utterance on subjects of Christian doctrine, the subject of the Atonement is, of course, included;

and, in the essay in which it is discussed, we have, actually, notwithstanding much protesting and many disclaimers, and great and evidently sincere efforts to conceal the fact, the selfsame crudities as

are enumerated in the passage above cited. We may note the following, in evidence of this fact:

The law of righteousness, the justice of God, demands not only obedience in the present, but vengeance for the past.... In the death of Christ a manifestation was made of the righteousness of God, of His wrath, the absolute hostility of His nature to sin.... This manifestation of the righteousness of God might have been made by mere punishment; it became a PROPITIATION in that He, the self-chosen victim, by His acceptance of it, recognized the righteousness of the law which was vindicated on the Cross.... Nothing but the willing acceptance of suffering, as the due portion of the human nature in which the sin was wrought, could have so declared the justice of God's law as to be a propitiation of Divine wrath (p. 290).

Again

A true ethical insight shows us that this affection of anger, of hatred [on the part of God], is, in reality, the expression of justice, and derives from the law of righteousness..., [God] cannot put away His wrath UNTIL the demands of the law have been satisfied, until the sacrifice has been offered, to expiate, to cover, to atone for the sins of the world. The reconciliation is NOT merely the reconciliation of man to God by the change wrought in man's rebellious nature, but it is also the propitiation, of God Himself, whose wrath unappeased, and whose justice unsatisfied, ARE THE BARRIERS thrown across the sinner's path to restoration (p. 288).

Once more:

Although we may still recognize that it was the spirit of obedience and voluntary submission which gave atoning value to the death of Christ, we cannot ignore the necessity of death as the appointed form which the obedience took. Had He not obeyed, He would not have atoned; but had he not died, the obedience would have lacked just that element which made it an atonement for sin.... There is nothing well-pleasing in death alone, it is true; but there is ... something well-pleasing to His righteousness, something propitiatory, in death, IF, as a further condition, the perfect obedience of the victim is thereby displayed (pp. 291, 2).

We have adduced these statements for the purpose of showing that the doctrine of the Atonement, as known to and taught by present-day Christianity, so-called, is not essentially different from that depicted in the extract from The True Christian Religion which we gave at the beginning of this paper. We have, here, the same old falsity, that God was full of wrath against mankind; that that wrath had to be appeased; and that it was the impossibility of its being appeased by any other means, that made it necessary for the Lord to come into the world, and there suffer and die. We find, moreover, a strenuous resistance to, and repudiation of, the belief that God did not need to be reconciled, but only man. We have the same old falsity that "God could not put away His wrath until the demands of the law had been satisfied;" the same old falsity that "the law of righteousness, the justice of God, demands not only obedience in the present, but vengeance for the past"; the same old falsity that the Lord bore this "vengeance for the past," or punishment of sin, in His own person; the same old falsity that, if the Lord had not died, everything He did in the way of real righteousness during His whole life in the world would have availed nothing, in that it "would have lacked just that element which made it" efficacious as "atonement for sin";

the same old blood-thirsty pagan falsehood that death is, in some certain circumstances, "well pleasing" to God, and can avail to appease His wrath when no other thing whatsoever could, and that this is the secret reason why there was so much slaying and bloodshed in the Jewish sacrificial system; and thus that the very essence of the one thing, and, so far as appears, the only thing, that was truly indispensable to the work of Atonement and Redemption, was the death on the cross. The "Passion of the Cross" is still put for Redemption itself. The only difference between the essay in *Lux Mundi* and a sermon on the same subject by, say, the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon is, that the latter would have said these things right out, and gloried in them, caring nothing as to how much the reason and the moral sense of his hearers, or readers, might be outraged thereby; whereas the former labors hard to conciliate reason and morality, by trying to make it appear that the things stated, and the positions set forth, are reasonable and moral, and, indeed, inevitably involved in the nature of God and man. It remains a fact, however, which every rational man who will allow his rationality free scope in thinking on this subject, is bound in his heart to see and admit, that every single one of these statements is in the teeth alike of rational truth and of Scripture teaching.

Let us take them in their order. To begin with, there is not a statement or a sign in the Divine Word, from beginning to end, that God was ever full of wrath against mankind, or anything like such a statement.

It is true, that, among the "apparent truths" contained in the letter of the Word, which are based upon the appearances which things bear to the natural man, and sometimes to the wicked - which appearances, moreover, it ought to be borne in mind, are nearly always, everyday experience being witness, the contrary of the genuine truth - there are some representations of God being "angry" with, or of His anger being "kindled" against, the Jewish nation, or this or that individual, on account of specific evils that had been committed; but there is not a hint, from Genesis to Revelation, that God's "anger" was ever directed against the human race as a whole, and especially against them on account of evils they had not committed, but simply inherited? On the contrary, the Scripture of both Testaments breathe the love of God even towards backsliding men, and an unceasing yearning to bless them, and are full of pathetic Divine pleadings that men would "cast away from them all their transgressions whereby they have transgressed," lest they should "die," accompanied by the assurance, that, if they would only "repent, and turn themselves from their transgressions, iniquity should NOT be their ruin" (Ezekiel 18:30). Much less is there any truth in the representation that the "wrath of God" against the world had anything to do with the necessity for the work of Redemption and the Atonement. The necessity for the work lay, it is true, in man's sinfulness; but, as far as God was concerned, solely in GOD'S Love; "God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should NOT perish, but HAVE everlasting life" (John 3:16).

It was always intolerable to His Infinite Love that men should "perish"; it was always the supreme yearning of His heart to give them "everlasting life" as the choicest of the blessings that He could give, or they receive; and, therefore, when they had sunk so low in their trespasses and sins that they must "perish," and could not "have everlasting life," if left to themselves, He, inspired as ever by His Infinite Love, and by His yearning to bless, "bowed His heavens and Himself came down," in His human nature, called "the Son," that they might "not perish, but have everlasting life." The question with which we are here confronted is, Did God so love "the world" that He could not allow men to perish, but must provide that they might have everlasting life? Is it the truth, as He declares it is, that He does

not find pleasure in the death of sinners, but, on the contrary, in their turning from their wickedness and living (see Ezekiel 18:23, 32; 33, 11)? If so, and if it is the fact, as the accepted dogma of the Atonement affirms, that God's "wrath unappeased, and justice unsatisfied, are the barriers thrown across the sinner's path to restoration" (Lux Mundi, p. 288), then, why, in the name of common sense, it may properly be demanded of Orthodoxy, did He not put away His "wrath," let His justice go "unsatisfied," forgive the sinner and have done with it? Any good and sensible man, inspired by love for the men and women concerned, would assuredly have done this; why did not God do so?

One falsity generates another. We are therefore told, by way of reply to this demand, "God cannot put away His wrath until the demands of the law have been satisfied" (p. 288)--a statement which, if true, would reflect the utmost contempt on the Being of whom it is made - and that the "demands" of "the law of righteousness, the justice of God," are "not only obedience in the present, but vengeance for the past" (p. 290). This falsehood is really two-fold: the first is, that "justice" demands "punishment," or "vengeance for the past;" and the second is, that God has no option but to exact the punishment when it has been incurred. To begin with, we traverse the position that justice, be it God's or man's, demands punishment. The function of justice in reference to punishment, is to see that the right person - namely, the real criminal - is punished, and no one else; that the punishment, both as to nature and degree, is truly proportioned to the offence; and that extenuating circumstances in particular cases be given their due weight. With respect to this last point, it may suffice to say, that any allotment of punishment, apart from a due regard to all the circumstances, may be "law," but it is certainly not "justice;" for "justice" evidently requires that the degree of culpability, as well as the fact of commission of the mechanical act, should enter into the determination of the nature and degree of the punishment that ought to be inflicted.

These, then, are the functions of "justice" in reference to punishments.

It must never be forgotten that it is not "justice" that enacts punishments; it is the necessity of protecting the community against evil-doers. Justice, no doubt, in civilized and well-governed states, has a voice determining what punishments shall be enacted in all particular cases; but the fact of punishment being enacted at all, is simply the imperative necessity there is of protecting the community against evildoers, under pain of the dissolution of human society.

It follows from this that the aim of punishment, and thus of justice in its administration, is never "vengeance for the past"; it is prevention for the future. In other words, civil punishment is not vindictive in its purpose, but deterrent. Hence punishment, which strict "justice" to the offender alone, in his purely personal and private relations, would be satisfied to forego, is sometimes inflicted on account of the encouragement to similar offences which others would derive from the non-punishment of the offender in this case.

These things, however, are truisms. It ought not to be necessary to even bring them forward. But the monstrous position, invented in defense of this doctrine of Atonement that we are considering, that "justice demands ... vengeance for the past," has made it necessary to state them, and perhaps with some emphasis. We venture to say, now, that everyone knows that the functions here ascribed to "justice" are its functions, and that it has no functions incompatible with these.

Compared with these, how does what orthodox theologians call the "justice of God," in reference to the

"atonement," stand?

The first function of "justice" is to see that the right person, and not the wrong, is the one that is punished. It is of the essence of this scheme of atonement that the "punishment" does not fall upon the right persons, but upon the wrong one; not upon the guilty, but upon the innocent. In this point, therefore, "justice" is not "vindicated"; it is trampled under foot.

It is a function of "justice" to see that there is due qualitative relation and quantitative proportion between the punishment and the offence, so that the punishment may not become contemptible, and thus non-deterrent, from being too light, nor yet barbarous and revolting from being too severe. In the case of the "orthodox" atonement, the offence was spiritual sin: the punishment was bodily suffering and death. At one time, the advocates of substitutionary atonement went so far as to say that physical death was the punishment of sin; but various necessities have constrained many of them to abandon the position: it cuts too many ways at once! Physical death is not the punishment of sin; nor the consequence of sin, except in a few isolated cases; and, even in those, natural causes intervene. The law of God is: "The soul that sinneth IT shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20); and the death of the soul is a spiritual death, for the soul is a spiritual thing: not mechanical extinction, but deadness, and eternal unresponsiveness, to everything good, true, heavenly, and Divine.

That death, even according to orthodoxy, the Lord Jesus Christ never underwent; and the death He did undergo was never the punishment of sin. That there is here neither the qualitative relation nor the quantitative proportion that "justice" calls for is obvious, and that "justice" had no hand in such an arrangement, certain.

It is important that this figment about the "justice of God," and His asserted inability to forgive man's sins without exacting "vengeance for the past," should be thoroughly exploded on rational, as well as other grounds, in order that it may be plainly seen that this fictitious scheme of atonement really is, as we stated at the outset, at utter variance with rational truth. But it is not less important that its utter unscripturalness should be exposed. We next propose to briefly, yet conclusively, do this.

It is affirmed that "the law of righteousness, the justice of God, demands not only obedience in the present, but vengeance for the past" (p. 290). The Apostle John speaks quite differently. He says: "If we confess our sins [which may be taken to signify "obedience in the present,"] He "--that is, God is faithful and JUST TO FORGIVE us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). According to this teaching, therefore, not merely is it perfectly consistent with the "justice" of God, to be satisfied with "obedience in the present," and, that being conceded, to forego all "vengeance for the past," which "forgiveness" assuredly covers; it is of the essence and nature of God's "justice" to act exactly in this way!

"If we confess, etc., ... He is ... JUST, to forgive us our sins." And, in case it should be argued, in opposition, that this is so since - and because - the Lord Jesus Christ bore the punishment of our sins, or the "vengeance for the past," for us, but that it was not the case till then-we reply, that, even before, according to orthodoxy, the Lord had done this, it was God's principle, declared by Himself in the clearest possible terms, to absolutely forgive sins, on the sole condition of "obedience in the present": "If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath

committed, SHALL NOT BE MENTIONED UNTO HIM; in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live" (Ezekiel 18:21, 22). Of course, everybody knows that "forgiveness for the past," as between man and man-and, consequently, as between God and man-is in no way inconsistent with the strictest "justice" where there is amendment in the present; and that it is mere recklessness to assert the contrary. But, whether or not this be so, we are, here, face to face with the indisputable fact, that God declared His principle, according to which He undertook to act, to be, to blot out the past--"his transgressions ... shall not be mentioned unto him"--if the sinner only "obeyed in the present."

The assertion that God "cannot" act so, has to be set against His own declaration that He did, does, and will act so; that is to say, that that is exactly and eternally the principle according to which He acts, in all such cases; and when this is done, the assertion of the theologians is plainly exposed as being in the very teeth of the plain declaration of God Himself, and, we will add, of the whole tenor of His Word.

As to the statement: "The reconciliation [that is, the atonement] is not merely the reconciliation of man to God by the change wrought in man's rebellious nature; but it is also the propitiation [that is, the appeasing] of God Himself" (Lux Mundi, p. 288); little more need be said than that this is merely the unsupported and untenable assertion of the apologist. No evidence is offered for it; and the testimony of the Divine Word and the Letters of the Apostles is directly against it. These sources know nothing whatever about God having been appeased, or having received any reconciliation, atonement, or propitiation. All they ever say about the matter, is, that man was reconciled and "received the atonement," and that God effected it! "If, when we were enemies, WE WERE RECONCILED to God through the death of His Son, much more, etc." (Romans 5:10). And--"We joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED the atonement"(*) (Romans 5:11).

And, again, "GOD was in Christ RECONCILING the world unto Himself, ... and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:19). Mark the utter contrariety between the Apostolic and the modern doctrines. the Apostolic doctrine is that MAN was the subject of the reconciliation: the modern doctrine is, that it was GOD who was reconciled. The Apostolic doctrine never once hints at God "receiving the atonement" or "being reconciled"; the modern doctrine scarcely ever speaks of anything else; and if it does not entirely rule out the necessity of man being "reconciled to God," certainly relegates it to a wholly subordinate position. The Apostolic doctrine plainly declares that GOD effected the Atonement: the modern doctrine, that it was not effected by GOD, but by Christ as a distinct person.

(*) It may be mentioned that the Greek word here translated "atonement" is the same that is elsewhere translated "reconciliation": there is no difference.

Finally, what may be called the very core of the doctrine of atonement we are passing in review, is that the Lord endured the "punishment" of our sins. We have already shown that the Lord, in undergoing suffering and death, did not undergo the punishment of sin, for the simple reason that such suffering and death as He endured are not the punishment of sin. We wish to add to this, here, by stating in the strongest possible terms, that the Lord Jesus Christ never suffered any "punishment" at all on any account. We repeat it - the Lord Jesus Christ never suffered any "punishment" at all on any account; and we would invite all who care to know the truth, to search the Word of God and the Apostolic writings, through, for any evidence whatsoever that He did.

He "suffered," it is most true, in many ways, and intensely; but suffering is not punishment, unless it is undergone for wrong-doing. Apart from that, it is merely suffering infliction of it for wrong-doing is what makes it "punishment." That the suffering the Lord underwent was not inflicted upon Him on account of any wrong-doing on His part, is certain from the fact that He was "without sin." That it was not inflicted on Him on account of the sins of mankind, is equally certain from the fact - already proved, but always being ignored - that the death the Lord underwent was not the punishment of the sins of the human race. This point must be for ever settled if we simply ask ourselves the question, Is crucifixion "the punishment" of the sins of the whole race of mankind? If the answer be "Yes," then it follows that not only the Lord, but the two malefactors who were crucified with Him, and also every unfortunate political offender who ever expiated his intrigues by that terrible death, bore, in their death, the punishment of the sins of the human race! There can, we think, be no need to pursue THIS point.

It may be urged, however, that Christ was our sacrifice; and that it inevitably results from this fact, that He was suffering the punishment of our sins for us. How else, it may be urged, could He be "sacrificed" for us, seeing that the animal slain in sacrifice was put to death for the sins of the offerer, who had representatively transferred his sins to the animal, for that very purpose, by laying his hands upon its head, and confessing his sins over it?

We reply, Christ was our sacrifice, indeed; and therefore - as we hope to show in our next chapter - He did not suffer the "punishment" of sin, but purged His human nature entirely pure from sin, by the things He "suffered, being tempted" (Hebrews 2:18). For the rest of this argument from the sacrifices, we lay down the following propositions for the consideration of every searcher of the Scriptures and lover of the truth:

1. There is no word in the Sacrificial law intimating that the animal was sacrificed instead of the offerer.
2. There is no word in that law that the "killing" was a "punishment."
3. There is no word in that law hinting at any transfer of sins to any animal that was sacrificed.
4. The laying on of hands, which did signalize the presentation of an animal for sacrifice, was never accompanied by any confession of sins over such animal.
5. In the only instance in which the laying on of hands was accompanied by a confession, and in which sins were representatively transferred to an animal, the animal was rendered thereby so "unclean" that it was unfit for sacrifice, and was, therefore, sent into the wilderness; and the man who took it was, by doing so, rendered "unclean" also. This, of course, was the case of the Scapegoat (see Lev. xvi.).

Any one may verify these positions, by reading the Levitical law of sacrifice for himself; and, when he has done so, he will perceive on what a basis of misrepresentation and invention, so far as this point is concerned, the superstructure of the modern doctrine of the atonement has been erected and now rests; while the whole - though very incomplete - examination to which we have subjected it in the earlier part of this chapter, must surely satisfy the candid and intelligent mind, that, in saying that the modern doctrine of atonement is opposed to every form of truth, human and Divine, we were simply speaking "words of truth and soberness." The truth of the following summing up must also be, now at

least, evident:

From this idea of Redemption and the idea of God [as divided into a Trinity of persons] the whole system of theology has lost its spirituality, and become in the lowest degree natural. This was the necessary consequence of ascribing to God merely natural properties and attributes; and, yet, on the idea entertained of God and of redemption, which makes one with salvation, everything that has relation to the Church depends. For that idea is like the head from which all the parts of the body are derived; when, therefore, that idea is spiritual, everything of the Church becomes spiritual also; but, when that idea is natural, everything of the Church becomes merely natural. Consequently, as the idea of God and of redemption has become merely natural, that is, sensual and corporeal, of consequence, all those things are merely natural which the heads of the Church have maintained, and do maintain, in their dogmatic teachings (@TCR 133).

We propose to deal with this same subject, constructively, in our next chapter.

XI. The Real Atonement.

- i. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth (John 17:19).

NOT the least of the many reprehensible features of the received doctrine of the Atonement is, that it necessitates and presupposes a Trinity of Persons in the Godhead, and is thus opposed, in the whole warp and woof of its fabric, to the fundamental truth of the true Christian religion, that God is One in Essence and in Person, and that this One God is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in His Divine Humanity. This fact can scarcely need substantiating; indeed, it would probably be admitted, and even insisted upon, by the advocates of the doctrine immediately in question. We need not, therefore, demonstrate the point.

It will suffice to mention that the smallest amount of reflection is enough to make it plain to anyone that the ordinary doctrine of the Atonement cannot be maintained, when it is acknowledged that the Father and the Son are not two "Persons" at all, but the Essential Divine Nature and the Divine Humanity of the One God, our Lord Jesus Christ, related in Him as are the soul and the body in man, His "image."

Such reflection will show that the terms of the accepted doctrine of Atonement actually cannot be applied to the Father and the Son as existing in ONE Person; and this fact, with many who are committed to the orthodox faith, is sufficient to secure the rejection of the doctrine of the absolute Oneness of God, in Person, as in all things else. But, with those who have followed the course of these papers, and have, consequently, seen and admitted that a Trinity of Persons is as unscriptural as it is irrational-and no more absolute assertion of its utter unscripturalness could possibly be made!--the recognition of the complete incompatibility existing between the Scripture doctrine of the Trinity and the modern doctrine of the Atonement, will have the contrary effect of giving a final confirmation to the rejection of the latter doctrine. To such persons, indeed, the fact that the doctrine is irreconcilable and incompatible with the real and personal Oneness of God in the Lord Jesus Christ, will of itself be its all-sufficient condemnation.

We trust, therefore, that it is now plain that the generally accepted doctrine of the Atonement - which, be it mentioned, is the only doctrine on the subject, of which, at this day, anything is known outside the New Church!--is, on every ground, inconsistent as much with the teachings of the Word of God as with the intuitions of sound reason. For, it stands convicted to sum up the matter - of being subversive of the Oneness of God, dishonoring to His character, contrary (as shown in our last chapter) to express teachings, as well as to the whole tenor, of His Word; and at open war alike with the most elementary and with the most advanced perceptions of reason.

The true doctrine of the Atonement, on the contrary, will be found to be both Scriptural and rational, and consequently in perfect harmony with all other truths of reason and Revelation. What, then, is this true doctrine of the Atonement?

We noted, incidentally, in our last paper, that in the Epistles-the only part of what is called the New Testament where the term occurs at all - it is the same Greek word: which is translated, once, "atonement" (Romans 5:11), and twice, "reconciliation"; and where the related verb is employed, that is

represented, in every case, by the English verb "to reconcile" (Romans 5:10, 11, 15; 1 Corinthians 7:11; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19, 20). The reason of this is that the Saxon word, "atone," means to "reconcile," and "atonement," reconciliation; neither more nor less. The etymological dictionaries give both the derivation and meaning of the word in harmony with this statement: "Atone ... [from at one, that is, to be, or cause to be, at one] ... v. t., to reconcile." At the time, moreover, that the Authorized Version of our Bible was produced, the words "atonement" and "reconciliation" were commonly used interchangeably. We accordingly find the following in Shakespeare:

He seeks to make atonement

Between the Duke of Gloster and your brothers;

a form of speech, needless to say, which we should never at this day employ in the meaning in which the word "atonement" is there used.

We should say, "to make reconciliation between, etc." And, lastly, in the one instance in the Epistles where the word "atonement" does occur, there is given the marginal reading, "Or, reconciliation." All this goes to show, we will venture, indeed, to say that it proves that, in the one instance in which we encounter the word "atonement" in the Apostolic writings, nothing is meant different from reconciliation. "The truth stands plainly out, consequently, that the Atonement of Christian doctrine, traced to its source in the earliest doctrinal documents of historical Christianity, turns out to be nothing other than simple "reconciliation." This being so, the Atonement our Lord effected was clearly a reconciliation that He brought about; and the question for us becomes, What "reconciliation" was it that was effected by the Lord in His humanity in the world - or, to revert to the Apostolic form, by, God in Christ?

Reconciliation, as between persons, is the bringing into relations of friendliness, individuals between whom there has been enmity or division. Now, the parties to the "reconciliation" here in question, were, as is well known, God on the one side, and humanity or the human race on the other; "God was in Christ, reconciling the WORLD unto HIMSELF" (2 Corinthians 5:19). It was between God and mankind, therefore, that the enmity existed in respect of which God in Christ effected "reconciliation."

The question that next arises, is, What was the ground of the enmity, division, alienation, or estrangement that existed between God and man?

The answer is obvious. It must necessarily have been sinfulness on the side of man. The man who gives the rein to evil, necessarily removes himself from God, and places a barrier - the barrier of those very evils - between God and himself. A wantonly evil man has nothing in common with Him who is Goodness and Holiness itself. He is assuredly not "at one" with God. On the contrary, he is at enmity against God. For God is Goodness itself; and the man we have in mind is demonstrating, by his doing, cherishing and loving evil and not good, that he has certainly no love for goodness, but contrariwise, such a hatred of it, that if a good impulse, opposed to his evils, should perchance arise momentarily in his heart, he will crush and destroy it. He therefore does not love God. It is the solemn and awful truth that such a man is at enmity against, and hates God, in the exact measure in which he hates goodness, and loves evil, in his own life. There is also no other kind of enmity and alienation possible between God and man, than man's wickedness. And this is the Apostolic doctrine of the enmity between God

and man, in respect of which the Lord effected reconciliation: "You that were sometime ALIENATED and ENEMIES in mind BY WICKED WORKS, yet now hath He reconciled"(*) (Colossians 1:21).

We have only to add that it is a perpetual characteristic of unregenerate human nature, not only for that time, but for all time, that it is at variance with God by reason of sin, imperfection, and infirmity, both hereditary and acquired. This, then, was the enmity that needed to be put away at the time when God came as man into this world for our redemption, that needs to be put away now, and that will need to be put away always. As we have seen in former papers, at the time immediately antecedent to the Incarnation, man had fallen into such a state of spiritual inability and helplessness, that his inherent enmity against God could not any longer be "atoned" without special Divine intervention, and the provision of new and additional means to make it possible. It must now, we think, be clear that the Atonement, or Reconciliation, indicated in these remarks, was the Atonement that was needed; and it follows from all we have previously seen in relation to the subject, that the precise object of God's coming in the flesh was to make provision for this very Reconciliation.

(*) Though the Greek verb, in this case, is not the same as that translated "reconcile," etc., in the places enumerated earlier in this article, it is closely akin to it, and the meaning is, without doubt, essentially the same.

This conclusion, however, carries us yet farther. In order to put Himself in a position to redeem man from the power of hell, God, we remember, clothed Himself by birth from a human mother, through the operation of the laws of hereditary transmission, with a temptable human nature. We remember, also, that it was a necessary condition of the work to be accomplished, that this superinduced human nature should be temptable not merely in a general way, and in some respects, but in all possible respects.

Otherwise, the Redemption wrought by its means could have been only a partial Redemption, affecting those respects in which the Lord made Himself temptable and conquered temptation, and those only. In all other points, and thus as to all other evils, man would have remained as much the bond-servant of the hells as he was before; and all men who were in these OTHER evils would have been left unredeemed. It was a necessary condition of the spiritual situation, that the human nature in which the Lord was born into the world, should be absolutely replete with hereditary evil of every possible kind, and in every possible degree—that is, with predispositions, tendencies, inclinations, proclivities, lusts, to both the most trifling, and the most vile, atrocious, and abominable evils that have ever disgraced humanity.

This is a terrible thing to contemplate; and we naturally shrink, at first, from the suggestion that it can possibly be true of Him who was "without sin." But it will be found, upon reflection, that, IF, though "without sin," He really was "TEMPTED IN ALL POINTS like as we are" (Hebrews 4:15), it cannot be other than true. And how immeasurably the recognition that it is true, exalts our conception of the purity and the boundlessness of the Love, which, in bowing its heavens and coming down to earth, so stooped and humbled itself for our sakes, as to dwell in such a nature, since nothing less could avail for man's salvation; and of the Perfect Holiness, which notwithstanding such a heredity, remained absolutely "without sin" through thirty years of unremitting temptations, the most severe, the most cruel, and the most profound that have ever been experienced!

{165 And, moreover, what an "atonement" was needed in that human nature! What an "atonement," moreover, must necessarily have been effected in that human nature, in which "the whole world" was epitomized, and in which God "bore," "carried," and "put away" the whole world's sins; by the mere fact that the Lord, by conquering in His temptations, put away, one by one, all those evils of which it had at birth been full, and thus purged His humanity pure from every one of them! At the first, the degree of its antagonism to the Divine Goodness was greater, or more pronounced, than in any other human nature that had ever existed; at the last, it was brought, by processes of glorification, into such "at-one-ment" with the Father, that it was the Father's own body in which dwelt "all the fullness of the Godhead," and, thus, not only the whole Divine Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but also all the Infinite Goodness and all the Infinite Perfections of the Godhead too!

It is a noteworthy circumstance that the word "atonement," the doctrine bearing which name occupies so large a place in the system of doctrine called Christian, never once occurs in the Gospels, and that the idea universally associated with that word as a doctrinal term is entirely absent from them.

The idea set forth in the present chapter, however, is familiar to them. That He was tempted, is plain from the express statements to that effect, which are so well known that it would be a work of superfluity to point them out. That He conquered in those temptations is equally well known from the summary records of His temptations, contained in Matthew (iv. 1-11), and Luke (iv. 1-13); and, His hereditary evil nature and temptations notwithstanding, that He remained "without sin," from His challenge to the Jews, "Which of you convinceth Me of sin?" That His humanity progressed in perfection, and thus in the putting off of its hereditary evils, by degrees, or successively, is evident from the testimony that He "increased in wisdom and in stature, and IN FAVOR WITH God" (Luke 2:52), as well as from His own declaration in later life, "I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I SHALL BE PERFECTED" (Luke 13:32). That at length He fully "glorified" His humanity, by putting on in it the very Divinity, the "Father's own self," which dwelt in His humanity all along, He plainly testifies towards the close of His life in the world, in the prayer, "Father ... GLORIFY THY SON, that Thy Son also may glorify Thee ... GLORIFY Thou Me WITH THINE OWN SELF" (John 17:1-5). And, finally, that this "glorification" with the Father's Own Self" was not fully accomplished even on the very eve of the Crucifixion, is certain from His agonized prayer in the garden, NOT My will, BUT Thine be done" (Luke 22:42).

Had His own will, that is, the will of His humanity, as distinguished from that of the Father, or His Divinity, been in full accord with "the Father's," such a prayer would have been without meaning. It was not; but it was to be made so; and He was at that time engaged in a struggle-the cruel severity and difficulty of which is evinced by the fact that it caused Him to sweat "as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44)--to make it so. And this bringing of His own will into such perfect accord with the Divine will, He speaks of in one place as a process of "sanctification," which is, making holy: "For their sakes I SANCTIFY MYSELF" (John 17:19).

The familiarity to the Gospel records of the idea which the New Church attaches to the word "atonement," in reference to our Lord's redemptive work, is then indisputable. In the New Church Writings, however, the word "atonement" is but rarely employed. They employ terms taken from our Lord's own way of speaking on the subject. They speak of the process by which the Lord successively brought His humanity into complete ONENESS with His Divinity, as the "glorification" of that

humanity; or again, in view of the fact that He "glorified" it with "the Father's Own Self," or with the very essential DIVINE NATURE - as "making it Divine"; and of the humanity itself when fully "glorified," or made Divine, as "the Divine Humanity."

The meaning of the following statement of the Writings of the New Church on this subject, and also the relation of the Death on the Cross to what is properly meant by the "Atonement," will now be readily perceived:

The Passion of the Cross was not Redemption, but the last temptation which the Lord endured as the Grand Prophet; and it was the means of the glorification of His Humanity, that is, of the union with the Divinity of the Father.

The two purposes for which the Lord came into the world, and by which He saved men and angels, are these: Redemption and the Glorification of His humanity. These two are distinct from each other; but, still, with respect to Salvation, they make one. It has been shown in the foregoing articles, that REDEMPTION was a combat with and subjugation of the hells, and afterwards the arrangement of the heavens in order. But GLORIFICATION was the uniting of the Lord's humanity with His Father's Divinity, which was effected by successive steps, and fully completed by the Passion of the Cross. The reason why the union was fully effected by the Passion of the Cross is, because this was the last temptation which the Lord underwent during His abode in the world; for conjunction [with God] is effected by temptations, for in them man is, to all appearance, left to himself alone; yet it is only in appearance, for God is then most present with him in the inmosts of his mind, and sustains him.

When therefore a person conquers in temptation, he is then most intimately conjoined with God: and this was the case with the Lord in the union with His Father. That the Lord, during His sufferings on the Cross, was left to Himself is evident from His exclamation at that time: "My God, My God, why hast THOU FORSAKEN ME?" and also from His words, "No man taketh My life from Me, but I lay it down of Myself: I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again. This command have I received of My Father" (John 12:18). It is evident from this that the Lord suffered not as to His Divinity but as to His humanity; and that, at the time of the suffering, the most intimate, and thereby the most complete union [with the Father] was effected.... But, although REDEMPTION and the PASSION OF THE CROSS are two distinct things, yet they are united, and make one in the matter of SALVATION; inasmuch as the Lord, by the union with His Father, which was completed by the Passion of the Cross, became the Redeemer to all eternity (True Christian Religion, 126, 127).

Three things, in particular, we learn from this teaching: first, that the Passion of the Cross was in reality a temptation; secondly, that it was the last of a long series of temptations, which extended throughout the course of the Lord's life in the world; and, thirdly, that all these temptations, from the first to the last, were the means, and the earlier one's as much so as the last, by which the Lord put away all the antagonism against Divine Goodness and Truth, that was in His humanity by birth, and thus united, or "at-oned," that humanity with the Divinity of His Father which was within.

The first of these positions is contrary to received opinion in two respects: first, in not allowing that the Suffering of the Cross was the Atonement, but, instead, one of many means thereto; and, second, in regarding that Suffering as a temptation. Let us, therefore, briefly consider these points, and the second of them, as being the essential one, in the first place.

The question is, Is there good ground for believing that the Lord's suffering of the Cross was essentially a temptation? It should be noted at the outset that the single fact that the Lord truly "bore our sins" in His humanity, by taking them upon Himself in and with it through His birth from a human mother, indisputably certifies us that the infirmities and sins thus actually "borne" included the infirmity of a craven shrinking from pain and fear of death, and the evil of a desire of revenge upon persecutors, torturers and betrayers, and bitterness against fair-weather friends.

And it is equally certain that these things - to which the Lord must have been tempted, if it is true that "He was tempted in ALL points like as we are"--had to be laid aside before the humanity could be spiritually at one with the Divine Nature - for the Divine Nature cannot possibly contain those infirmities and evils any more than it can others; and that they could only be laid aside by being overcome in actual temptation to them.

That the Lord shrank from this death, is certain from His prayer in reference to it: "Father, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, let this cup pass from Me" (Matthew 26:39); that He struggled and fought against this shrinking, is proved by the next words of His prayer at the time: "Nevertheless, NOT AS I WILL, but as Thou wilt" (ibid.); while that the struggle was an inexpressibly hard one, is manifest from the fact that He had to repeat the prayer three times (ibid. 10, 42, 44), and that, even after "there appeared an angel from heaven strengthening Him" (Luke 22:43), He, "BEING IN AN AGONY, prayed MORE EARNESTLY: and His sweat was as it were GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD falling down upon the ground" (ibid. 5:44). But that, nevertheless, He completely and absolutely triumphed over the temptation, so that not a vestige of the shrinking remained; that it had given place to a calm, serene preparedness to endure all things, is evinced by His rebuke to Peter when he resisted with the sword his Master's arrest: "Put up thy sword into the sheath the cup that My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11).

The endurance of a temptation to hate His persecutors, betrayer, torturers, faithless disciples, and hooting mob, is not so clearly intimated, truly; but it is surely proved by the prayer our Lord put forth, when His transfixion to the Cross had been accomplished: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:48); in which He prayed for and even excused His enemies, and thus demonstrated how fully He had trampled under foot the temptation which must - since He had our nature!--have so powerfully and repeatedly assailed Him in those hours, to hate them and curse them even with His dying breath. In this temptation His hardest word was that addressed to the traitor, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" (Luke 23:48), and His last, the prayer of complete forgiveness and generous excuse: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

These temptations, no doubt, involved other and more interior experiences which it would be beyond the power of the finite mind to comprehend if revealed; but that there must have been at least these, cannot, we think, be doubted by anyone; meditating upon the circumstances of the last twenty-four hours of our Lord's earthly life, who believes that He truly took our nature upon Him, and was, consequently, "tempted in ALL points like as we are." It becomes certain, too, that the Suffering of the Cross, involving, as it did, temptations such as these, which were utterly vanquished, was a means whereby the Lord put off the remaining infirmities and evils of His human nature, and substituted for them the contrary Divine perfections.

And inasmuch as this was, unquestionably, "the last" of the whole series of the temptations which the Lord suffered, and by which He had put away evil after evil, and infirmity after infirmity, and by

which also He brought His humanity in one respect after another into accord, or "at-one-ment" with His Divinity, it is also manifest that the temptation of the Cross was the means by which that work of Atonement was brought to its final end, and completely accomplished. And it is exactly this fact, namely, that the experience of the Cross was the FINAL Battle and Victory by which the tremendous issues at stake were settled for all eternity, which gives to the events of Gethsemane and Calvary, the greater apparent consequence and moment that the Gospels seem to attach to them as compared with the preceding steps of the work, which were evidently as indispensable in their place as the Cross in its.

Everyone may see that in this doctrine of the Atonement we are dealing with realities. Unless the whole of the Gospel of the Coming of the One Eternal God into the world as a man for the Redemption of the human race is a cunningly devised fable, it is indubitable that the Atonement we have been contemplating was a work that, from the conditions present, had to be done; that it could be effected only by temptations to evils and victories over them; that it was accomplished, and in that way; and thus that the At-one-ment of the Lord's humanity with His Divinity was and is a blessed and solid reality.

But everyone will recognize, also, that there is something lacking. If this be all there is about it, the Atonement affects human nature only in the Lord's Own Person; and human nature outside that, that is to say, the human race, is not included in, or benefited by, the work done. As a matter of plain fact, the Atonement the Lord accomplished while He was in the world, was exactly the glorification of His own humanity, and nothing else. But, although this was the only Atonement He effected at that time, it was not the only Atonement to be effected; nor was that Atonement the end for the sake of which His labors and sufferings were undergone. It was as a means to the effecting of a like Atonement in the souls of men, or to the "reconciling of THE WORLD to Himself," that God effected this primary or original Atonement in Christ. This, in fact, the Lord Himself expressly teaches when, in praying for the "sanctification" of His disciples "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17)--He afterwards added, "FOR THEIR SAKES I SANCTIFY MYSELF; THAT THEY ALSO MIGHT BE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE TRUTH" (ibid. 5:19). There is no missing the point of this it explicitly lays it down that the work of "sanctification," "glorification," "atonement," call it by which name we prefer, that the Lord performed in His own: humanity on an infinite scale, was done for the sole end that a like "sanctification," regeneration-the finite equivalent for "glorification"--or "atonement," might be accomplished on a finite scale, "through the truth," in all who should ever become His disciples.

It is obvious to a clear comprehension of the subject, as set forth even in the present chapter, that the attainment of this "sanctification" by the Lord's disciples, made possible by His "sanctification" of Himself, is the same thing as the "receiving the atonement" (Romans 5:11), of which the Apostle speaks. It is also plain that this reconciliation or atonement of men, was made possible by, and would not have been possible without, the Lord's sanctification or glorification of His own humanity. But the question arises for solution, What is the connection between the two things?

The answer shall be brief: let us trust it will be clear. The "sanctification" of His Own humanity was effected by the Lord bringing down, through His obedience to Divine Truth--"it is written"--in temptations, that Divine Goodness Itself which antagonized the evil to which He had been tempted, from the Divinity within Him, and the planting of that Divine Goodness in the Human Nature for ever.

The Divine Goodness of the Lord's Divine Humanity, therefore, is a goodness which was attained and placed there in actual temptation struggles against actual human evils - yours, and mine, and every other man's and woman's in all the world: it is, thus, while thoroughly Divine, at the same time thoroughly human.

When the Lord withdrew Himself from the outward observation of men in the world, He took that Divine Humanity, "glorified" at such enormous cost of suffering and labor, with Him, and has it with Him now; the "bodily" dwelling of the very "fullness of Godhead." Because that Humanity is now His very "Body," He declared, concerning it: "No one cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6)--for no one can approach the "soul" of another, but "by" the body in which that "soul" dwells. Moreover, they who do "go" to the Father, "by" the Lord's Divine Humanity, will find there the Divine Goodness which alone can avail for their "sanctification"; not in its own unaccommodated state, in which it must be for ever beyond the reach or even endurance of a finite being, but in its perfectly human form, because of the real human experiences by which it was established in that Humanity. Every grace and perfection of that Humanity was acquired in it by temptation and suffering exactly such as we are daily called upon to undergo in virtue of our discipleship. If we go to that Humanity in our distress and need, we shall find exactly that Divine Power by which our Savior overcame in that very temptation in His own human life, and that very Divine Goodness, with which, having overcome, He replaced the evil which had tempted Him, and thus "sanctified" His Humanity in that respect. And He will impart them to us; and we, in receiving them into our lives, shall be actually "receiving the atonement," and by that means shall "be reconciled to God," even as He was, and because He was.

This, in conclusion, is the sense in which the following Apostolic utterances are true, helpful, and consolatory:

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED (Hebrews 4:15, 16).

In that He Himself hath suffered, being tempted, He is able also to succor them that are tempted (ibid. 2:18).

He is able, also, to SAVE THEM TO THE UTTERMOST THAT COME UNTO GOD BY HIM (ibid. 7:25).

The truth stands forth, then, that "reception of the atonement" is the salvation of the individual soul. The means, conditions, or laws of Salvation, therefore, come naturally under consideration next; and with this subject, therefore, we propose to deal in our chapter following.

XII. The Law of Salvation.

IN considering the subject of Salvation, it is of importance to be clear, at the start, in regard to what the Salvation with which we are concerned is from. On this point, an entirely false opinion has not only got abroad, but has obtained general acceptance. This opinion is that Salvation is from hell. We have not scrupled to call it a false opinion, because it is at complete variance with the teaching of the Divine Word. Of Salvation from hell, per se, the Word of God has absolutely nothing to say. The Salvation of which it speaks is a salvation from sin. This is the Salvation which God came into the world as Man in order to place within human reach. We know this to be so, from the fact that His manhood was called "JESUS," which means Savior, because, in and by it, He was to "save His people FROM THEIR SINS" (Matthew 1:21).

It is admitted, of course, that hell is described in the Sacred Scriptures as the punishment or ultimate consequence of sin, and that, in the sense that where there is no sin there will assuredly be no punishment for sin, "salvation from sin" implies and involves immunity from its punishment or consequences, and thus from hell.

But, in this sense - which is the only sense recognized by the Word of God - salvation from hell is a result of prior Salvation from sin, and, as such, is an entirely secondary and subsidiary matter to that. In the general estimate, on the contrary, the order of importance is reversed; and salvation from hell is looked upon as the essential salvation, and salvation from sin - where that is taken into account at all - as of importance on account of its being contributory to salvation from hell. Such a reversal of the teaching of the Word of God in regard to the very nature of the Salvation of which it speaks to man, or, as to what the Salvation which is of such vital moment to men is to be from, is not only deplorable in itself, but likely to lead to very mischievous consequences. For one thing, it encourages men to look upon the consequence of wrong-doing as the thing to be dreaded, rather than wrong-doing itself on its own account. The truth is, that the Salvation which the Word of God proclaims as its great good-news for men, and the Salvation which God became a Man in the world in order to bring once more and for ever within reach of His backslidden children - when, but for such becoming Man on His part, it would have passed hopelessly beyond their grasp - is Salvation from sin; and not salvation from hell, or from the punishment, or consequences of sin, save in a purely secondary and subordinate sense: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people FROM THEIR SINS."

We have learned in former chapters, that by the work of Redemption, God abolished the irresistibleness of the power which hell and evil exerted over mankind at the time immediately antecedent to His Coming into the world, and at the same time man's helplessness in the presence of sin and hell. He became the Conqueror and Master of hell in His Divine Humanity - which He "sanctified" in order that all who become His disciples "might be sanctified through the truth" (John 17:19)--and placed Himself, in and by virtue of that Divine Humanity, in the power of saving "His people from their sins." "Though He [the human nature born of Mary] were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and, BEING MADE PERFECT, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY HIM" (Hebrews 5:9).

We learn, incidentally, from pursuing this line of thought, that Redemption is the Conquest of sin which God effected, and the power over hell that God acquired to Himself in His Own Humanity; and

that Salvation, on the other hand, is the deliverance "from their sins," which He is, through that Redemption, able to confer upon such sinners as comply with the conditions according to which Salvation may be realized.

What are these conditions? In other words, "What must we do to be saved?" Or, yet, again, "What must we do to inherit eternal life" (see Matthew 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25)?

A young man once addressed this question, in the form last given, to the Lord Jesus Christ when He was in the world; and the Savior's reply to this inquiry about Salvation was: "If thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." The questioner "saith unto Him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honor thy father and thy mother, and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 19:17-19). With the exception of the last, the "Commandments" here enumerated - not, of course, as the only Commandments that are to be "kept" by those who desire eternal life, but as examples of what is meant by "the Commandments"--these are all taken from the summary of religious duty called the "Decalogue," or "Ten Commandments." The last of them, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," is summed up by the Apostle Paul as comprehending in itself obedience to all the specific commandments for the regulation of our conduct towards our neighbor: "He that loveth another," he says, "hath fulfilled the law. For this: Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. LOVE WORKETH NO ILL TO HIS NEIGHBOR; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:8-10).

By the Commandments, therefore, which those who desire salvation, or eternal life, are to "keep," the Lord meant plainly the Commandments of the Decalogue, and also the "two Commandments" on which, He declared on another occasion, "hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:40), or, in other language, the whole round of religious obligation. Now, a glance at the Commandments of the Decalogue discloses the remarkable fact that eight out of the ten are concerned to forbid certain specified evils or "sins." And as those commandments, in one or other of the various senses - higher and lower, interior and exterior, spiritual and natural-of which they are susceptible, comprehend all the evils to which man is subject, it is manifest that the man who "keeps" those commandments must needs be thereby saved from his sins. Those commandments cannot be "kept" and the man be still the servant of sin: "Whosoever COMMITTETH sin is the servant of sin" (John 8:34); to cease to commit it, is to throw off its yoke and to realize Salvation from it.

This seems clear, indisputable, and unexceptionable. But the significance of "keeping the commandments" needs to be well discerned.

It should be obvious, almost at a glance, that mere coincidence, or agreement, between a given person's conduct and the prescriptions of the ten Commandments, does not necessarily prove that he "keeps the Commandments." He may do so; and on the contrary he may not? Does this seem a paradox? Let us, then, briefly illustrate the point.

Is anyone so simple as to suppose that a man who abstains from adultery, say, for prudential reasons, or from fear of the consequences, of whatever kind, of committing it, is, in any essential and real point of view "keeping the Divine commandment," "Thou shalt not commit adultery"? Surely, no one. Is such

a man even giving a thought to the Commandment. Evidently not. The agreement which is outwardly presented between his actions and the Divine prescriptions is purely accidental; and it will disappear the moment he believes that he can commit the sin he loves without incurring the consequences he fears. That is absolutely certain. "Keeping" or "obeying" "the Commandments" implies a regard for them as Commandments; a recognition of their right to be obeyed; and the consistent practice of conforming our conduct to them, whether it is agreeable to us to do so or whether it is not agreeable. In order to "keep the Divine Commandment," therefore, it is necessary that we shun the evils which God in His Commandments forbids, because He forbids them, and because, consequently, to commit them is to disobey and sin against Him.

This, without doubt, was the respect in which the well-conducted young man who asked our Lord the question, "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" was "lacking." To do the things prescribed in the Commandments, as a matter of respectability, and out of deference to public opinion, or regard for our own personal or selfish advantage, is not "keeping the Commandments"; nothing is that but doing them as a matter of religion and out of regard to God.

Hence, mere natural morality, whether tintured with religion or not, has no saving value; it is only "keeping the Commandments," or, in other words, shunning evils as and because they are sins against God, that brings Salvation and leads to eternal life.

It is a truly astonishing, as well as a grievous, thing, to note that there is not one Church with any title to call itself Christian - leaving the New Church out of consideration - that, in its doctrinal standards, gives to those who ask it, "What must I do to be saved?" the answer of the Lord Himself to the question "Keep the Commandments." You will even find them saying that it is impossible to do what He set forth as the way of eternal life, and going so far as to bring against this most explicit prescription of His, His own Words, "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Of this position, only three things need be said. The first is, that it is the Lord God the Savior Himself who declares, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the Commandments," and that He, the Savior, must needs know the way of Salvation better, and be better worthy of belief, than any man or any Church whatsoever. The second is, that He does not mock us by imposing upon us impossible conditions, nor testifying a falsehood respecting the conditions by which we may "inherit eternal life." And the third is, that, although it is most true that "WITHOUT Him we can do nothing," it is equally true that "WE CAN DO ALL THINGS through Christ which strengtheneth us" (Philippians 4:13).

And is it to be believed, that when we loyally and earnestly, out of obedience to Him, strive to "keep the Commandments," He will leave us to ourselves in the effort? Such a belief is only possible to those who do not believe in the loving-kindness of our Savior God. The contrary is the truth. When a man shuns and strives against any sin to which he is tempted, because it is a sin against God, the Holy Spirit which is constantly proceeding from the Lord, flows down into the faithful effort, communicates to the struggling disciple the Omnipotence of the Divine Humanity over the evil with which he is wrestling, and gives him the victory. It is thus not the man who saves himself, but the Lord alone who saves him.

Some, however, and many of them faithful, earnest Christians, who strive with all their might, though in their Lord's strength, to "keep the Commandments," think they find in a certain utterance of the Apostle Paul a distinct and emphatic repudiation of "keeping the Commandments" as the way of Salvation. The utterance is: "A man is justified by faith WITHOUT the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28);

or, as it is expressed in another Epistle: "A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ" (Galatians 2:16); and it is erroneously taken for granted that, in each case, the expression, "the law," means the law of the Ten Commandments, and thus the very law which the Lord said those must keep who desire "eternal life."

Anyone might naturally have supposed that the first thought which would arise in the mind of a Christian on coming across so apparently glaring a contradiction to the unmistakable declaration of the Master, in the writing, of the "disciple," would be, "Paul could not have meant by the law the same thing that the Lord meant by the Commandments - that is to say, the Ten Commandments which were given by God from Sinai. I must examine the Apostle's language, and the circumstances in which it was written, more closely, and see whether he does not mean some other law. This, however, Christians generally do not seem to have thought of doing. If they had, they would have found the case exactly as has been suggested, and thus that by "the law," in these places, Paul meant the Mosaic, or ceremonial law, and not the law of the Decalogue. It is absolutely impossible for anyone possessed of the least degree of critical acumen, or even of plain common sense, to read the Apostle's own account, in his letter to the Galatian Christians, of the circumstances in which he delivered himself of the memorable dictum of which we here speak, and to have any doubt left in his mind on the point. The circumstances were, that Peter, at one time, when laboring among the Gentiles, ate with them after their manner, and disregarded the Jewish ceremonial law in regard to foods; but, when certain messengers - Jewish Christians - came from James, who was at Jerusalem, to Antioch, where Peter then was, Peter, to gratify the visitors, not only himself observed the ceremonials which he had been neglecting, but insisted that the Gentile converts should do the same.

Therefore, said Paul, "I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.... I said unto Peter before them all; If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We, who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law [that is, those "works of the law" which were in question at the time, which were those of the Jewish ceremonial law, and no other] but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:11, 14-16). The argument of the sixteenth verse is so plain that it could scarcely be made plainer it assigns as the ultimate ground of the utter inexcusableness of Peter's Judaizing conduct towards the Gentile converts, the fact that the Apostles, who were born Jews, had given up their Judaism for Christianity, or "the faith of Christ," because they had become convinced that the works of the Jewish law could not justify them - it being "not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). Such being Peter's case, how reprehensible was his conduct on this occasion; how greatly, indeed, was he "to be blamed"! Understand "the law" which was peculiar to, and distinctive of, the Jews, and which was abrogated by the Lord's Coming into the world - namely, the ceremonial or Levitical law - and the argument is lucid, convincing, and irresistible.

Understand, however, the law of the Ten Commandments, which was never peculiar to the Jews, and which was not abrogated by the Lord, but was, on the contrary, imported by Him in the most express manner into the New Covenant, and the "keeping" of it made the one condition of inheriting eternal life, and you have the Apostle contradicting the Master who sent him, and all things in confusion.

Not only, however, have you, in such case, the Apostle contradicting his Master; you have him contradicting himself. In his letter to the Romans, the very letter that contains the utterance we are here specially concerned with, in the form in which it is most generally quoted "a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (iii. 28)--he has the following noteworthy utterance, "NOT the HEARERS of the law are just before God, but the DOERS OF THE LAW SHALL BE JUSTIFIED" (ii. 13); which may be classed as Paul's matter-of-fact version of the Lord's parable of "the wise and foolish builders": "Everyone that HEARETH these sayings of Mine, and DOETH them NOT, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; AND IT FELL; and great was the fall of it" (Matthew 7:26, 27).

Equally inconsistent is such a view as that we oppose, with the following weighty warning from the pen of this same Apostle "If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law" (Galatians 5:18). Nor could the Galatians possibly understand by this "the law" of the Ten Commandments, as is, we believe, generally maintained at this day; for the Apostle immediately continues: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like"--nearly all, we see, express violations of "the law" of the Decalogue of which," the Apostle pursues, "I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that THEY WHICH DO SUCH THINGS SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD" (Galatians 5:19-21). The teaching is transparently clear those who are "led of the Spirit" are not under the ceremonial law of the Jews; but, so emphatically are they under the law of the Ten Commandments, that, if they persist in doing the things forbidden in that law, "they shall not inherit the kingdom of God!"

Well do the Writings of the New Church declare that the whole superstructure of Protestant Christianity is erected upon a single passage of Paul falsely understood" (True Christian Religion, 389)! How truly, also, in the following passage, do they describe the state of those who are in this "faith alone":

Those who are in faith separated from charity, and have confirmed themselves therein from the saying of Paul to the Romans, that "a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28), adore this saying as those who adore the sun, and become like those who, fixing their eyes steadily upon the sun, whereby the sight becomes dimmed, do not see anything in the midst of the light; for they do not understand what is there meant by the works of the law, viz., that they are the rituals which were written down by Moses in his books, which are everywhere called "the law," and not the commandments of the Decalogue; wherefore, lest the commandments of the Decalogue should be understood, he explains by saying; "Do we then abrogate the law through faith? God forbid. Yea, we establish the law" (verse 31 of the same chapter). Those who, from the above saying, have confirmed themselves in faith separate from charity by looking at that passage as at the sun, do not see where [Paul] enumerates the laws of faith, that they are the very works of charity: what, then, is faith without its laws? Neither do they see where he enumerates evil works, saying that they who do them cannot enter into heaven. From which is manifest what blindness has been induced by this single passage wrongly understood (Divine Providence, n. 115).

There is, therefore, the most perfect consistency between Paul and his Divine Master, as respects the

law of Salvation; and that law is:

If thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS (Matthew 19:17).

It is imperative, however, to bear in mind the force and significance of "keeping the Commandments," as pointed out in the former part of, this chapter; and, also, to heed well the following warnings which the Lord has now addressed to men in the Writings of the New Church:

If anyone flees evils for any other reason than because they are sins, he does not flee them, but only causes them not to appear before the world (Doctrine of Life, 108).

A wicked man is able to flee evils as hurtful; but no one except a Christian is able to flee evils as sins (Ibid., III).

And here we reach "the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes).

The Heavenly Father's purpose in Creation - a heaven for the human race - can be realized only by His children conforming to the essential laws of human and angelic life. To render this again possible, He became the Redeemer, "That we, being delivered out of the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life" (Luke 1:74,75). To keep this imperative necessity before the world, and to enable mankind to serve Him not only "without fear" but with intelligent love, He has established a New Church - has caused the New Jerusalem to come down out of heaven (Revelation 21:2).

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (xxii. 14). Robert R. Sutherland, Printer, Edinburgh.

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