

...Among the not insignificant signs of the

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times we note a series of three *New Creed Catechisms*, by "A Pastor," copyrighted and published by Thomas Todd, the well-known printer of *The Congregationalist*, and made "in accordance with the New Congregational Creed," which is published entire at the end of No. III, to correspond with the Apostles' Creed at the end of No. II. The fuller statements of the most advanced number give us the best opportunity to discover the theological basis on which the series stands. It follows the historical method, with a general introduction as to the nature of religion for Section I. Section II treats of the spiritual history of the race in a Primitive Period and an Educational Period. Section III is devoted to "The Christian Faith." In answer to the question "What was man's condition at the first?" we find the reply: "A childish condition; that is, without moral character, good or bad." Of the fall it is said: "By some form of disobedience he turned away from God; he fell into sin." The steps of the historic redemption through the descendants of Abraham are followed in a series of appropriate questions and answers. The section devoted to "The Christian Faith" opens with a statement of the historic facts relating to the fall, and to the life, death, resurrection and ascension of the Redeemer. The catechism then passes to study the mediatorial work and offices of Christ, and the scheme of redemption, in a full statement of the historic facts, though the doctrinal points are given with great simplicity. The end of Christ's work is said to be "to reconcile man to God." Men are said to sin, not as a race, but as individuals. The essence of the Atonement is found in the fact that it declares the righteousness of God, and at the same time frees his hands to pardon. Baptism is by sprinkling, or by immersion. The New Birth is "the passing out of the natural life, in which the service of self is the ruling motive, into a spiritual life, in which the ruling motive is the service of God." "All who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, trust in him for their salvation, and do his will among men," are declared worthy participants in the Lord's Supper. (Ques.) "In what three ways did Christ become a mediator between God and men?" (Ans.) "(1) By his atoning death upon the Cross. (2) As the Head of his Church. (3) By his personal power over the souls of men." The eschatology of the catechism may be summed up in these extracts. Those who "continue in sin . . . shall be sent away from the presence of God as workers of iniquity." (Ques.) "Who, then, are lost?" (Ans.) "All persisting sinners against God." (Ques.) "What evidence have we of the existence of an outer spiritual world or hell?" (Ans.) "(1) The words of Christ. (2) The fact that men die unreconciled to God."