

work will tend more and more to come under the control of Central Church Bodies, as distinct from Societies; its Liturgies will develop on controlled lines that may have a grave effect upon the unity of the Communion as a whole; and its new organization may very easily cause friction that is now happily avoided. But these are small points compared with the notable utterance on Reunion. We may interpret differently the Resolutions and their limitations. The narrow ecclesiastic will find in them support for his exclusiveness; the warm-hearted Christian will discover in them nothing that can prevent his manifesting his brotherhood with all who love the Saviour and follow His teaching. The Lambeth Fathers deliberately avoided the danger of defining practical steps, until Rome be reconciled to reason and scripture. They fixed their eyes and hearts on the Churches of the Reformation, and we are convinced that the spirit of the appeal will work on hearts and minds, until barriers are broken down. The estrangements of centuries will be ended by the Church of Christ reuniting itself in the conscious possession of a spiritual unity, that under the guidance of the Divine Spirit must find outward expression. May God hasten that day!

T. J. PULVERTAFT.

SOME LATTER-DAY HERESIES.

V. MILLENIAL DAWNISM OR RUSSELLISM.

BY THE REV. E. L. LANGSTON, M.A.

THE so-called "Pastor" C. T. Russell, founder of "Millennial Dawnism" in his early years was of quite humble life, having had no special training in the higher schools of education. He certainly had no training at any university and knew nothing whatever of Greek or Hebrew. "Pastor" Russell was never ordained and belonged to no recognized Church. In 1879 he married, but his wife eventually divorced him. "Pastor" Russell advertised himself as the President of the "International Bible Students' Association" and Pastor of the Brooklyn (N.Y.) Tabernacle, the

"London Tabernacle," London, England, and the "Washington Tabernacle," Washington, D.C., Chief Editor and Manager of "The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society," etc. Unfortunately the title "International Bible Students' Association" leads the public to think that this association is international. The *Brooklyn Eagle* and many other American papers, secular and religious, have made allegations against Russell, and to this day their charges remain unanswered.

"Pastor" Russell published a series of books, bound in six volumes, which are called *Studies in the Scriptures*. The title of these books is really misleading and is intended to deceive the ignorant public. The doctrines enunciated in these remarkable volumes subvert and undermine the very fundamentals of the Christian Faith. He asserted that the Bible must be read in the light of his six volumes, which he has edited and named "The Bible in an arranged form"; that is to say, that these volumes are NOT merely comments on the Bible, but are practically the Bible itself. On page 298 of his paper called *The Watch Tower*, of September 15, 1910, the following is written:—

"People cannot see the Divine Plan in the Bible by itself, but we see also that if any one lays the *Scripture Studies* aside even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if he then lays them aside and ignores them, and goes to the Bible, even though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness.

"On the other hand, if he merely read the *Scripture Studies* with their references and had not read a page of the Bible as suggested, he would be in the light at the end of the two years because he would have the light of the Scriptures."

Such a statement of course belittles the Bible and makes his own works superior to the Word of God. In fact, the above teaching is that, if we confine ourselves to the Bible, it would lead us to utter darkness, but if we read the Bible in the light of the *Scripture Studies*, we shall be led into the light, for he claims that "the key of knowledge of the Scriptures, long lost, is found, and gives God's people access to the hidden mystery." That "key" of course is to be found in his six volumes of the *Scripture Studies*.

A close study of these books, which have been circulated throughout America and Great Britain in their hundreds of thousands, reveals some of the most daring and shocking attacks on our

blessed Lord. They distinctly teach that He is not True Deity. They deny in the scriptural and Christian sense His Incarnation, Resurrection, Ascension and High Priestly intercession. The doctrine concerning the Second Advent that is promulgated is out of harmony with every known interpretation. The Personality, work and Deity of the Holy Spirit are denied. The doctrines of the Blessed Trinity and Atonement for man's sin through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus are denied.

One of the most serious errors of Millennial Dawnism is that it declares that Jesus Christ was not God before His Incarnation. "Pastor" Russell forgets St. John viii. 58, "Before Abraham was, I AM," and St. John xvii. 5, "And now, O Father, glorify Thou Me with Thine own self with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was." Again, Millennial Dawnism teaches that Christ was only a created Spirit, and this in the face of Colossians ii. 9, "In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." It absolutely denies the Resurrection of the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ in direct opposition to the plain statement: "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up . . . but He spake of the Temple of His Body" (St. John ii. 19-22). Russell even went so far as to say that "We know nothing about what became of His Body . . . whether it was dissolved into gases . . ."

Another instance showing ignorance, united with bombastic self-assurance, is found in "Pastor" Russell's paper in the reference to himself. In connexion with St. Matthew xxiv. 45, 46: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Russell claimed to be that servant. At one time the acceptance of Russell as that servant was made a test of fellowship amongst his followers. This fact is revealed on a souvenir given away to his followers after some of his Convention Tours, endorsed by a facsimile of his signature.

"If any oppose the Lord by the channel (that is to say, The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society) and the servant (that is to say, Pastor Russell) the Lord has delegated to do his work, to that extent he loses the favour, the Spirit of the Lord; light becomes darkness, and he is soon outside."

One of "Pastor" Russell's great themes which he dwelt upon at considerable length was "Where are the dead?" This is a theme of universal interest, for all have dear ones, especially during the

Great War, who passed from earthly scenes. The real question is, "What does Russell give his hearers for attending his gatherings so largely to hear him on this subject?" He distinctly says that the body crumbles into dust, the soul becomes unconscious; his whole doctrine may be pressed into one word, "The dead are nowhere," for he teaches that the believer receives eternal life at the Resurrection, is born again at the Resurrection and passes from death to life at the Resurrection. Well has Dr. Moorhead, President of the Xenia Theological Seminary, summarized and commented on Russell's false teaching:

1. Christ before His Advent was not Divine.
2. When He was in the world He was still not Divine.
3. His Atonement was exclusively human—a mere man's.
4. Since His Resurrection He is Divine only, no longer human at all.
5. His Body was not raised from the dead.
6. His Second Advent took place in 1874.
7. The saints were raised up in 1878.
8. Both Christ and the saints are now on this earth and have been ever since 1874 and 1878 respectively.
9. The professing Christian Church was rejected of God in 1878.
10. The final consummation and the end will take place in 1914.
11. Silence as to the Person and work of the Holy Spirit and the destiny of the wicked.

Millennial Dawnism is a mixture of Unitarianism, Universalism, Second Probation and Restoration-ism, and a certain amount of Swedenborgian exegesis.

Perhaps one of the most scandalous examples of his efforts to cast reflection upon God's work was his widely advertised tour for the purpose of investigation of Missions all the world over. On his return from a tour through certain portions of the Mission Field, great sums of money were spent in advertising the results in the pages of leading papers and magazines, whose great circulation made the cost of space exceedingly high. A monster gathering was held in New York Hippodrome. At that meeting he threw discredit upon the labours of every Missionary Society and held up to reproach and ridicule the missionary work of the Churches. There was, however, a certain Mr. W. T. Ellis, who exposed "Pastor" Russell and his criticisms; who in September and October, 1912, published in a periodical called the *Continent* articles entitled "An Investigator Investigated." Mr. Ellis, after reading carefully Russell's report about his visits to the Mission Stations of the world, proved conclusively that Russell was in Japan and China only so

long as his ship remained in port discharging and receiving cargo, for he travelled by the same ship clear from San Francisco to Hong Kong. He only met two missionaries, with whom he held no discussion concerning Missions; Russell did not visit a single Missionary Compound except one in Tokyo.

Such was something of the life, character, and teaching of the founder of Millennial Dawnism and the author of the *Scripture Studies*. These six volumes contain over 3,000 closely printed pages; over four million copies have been sold and circulated. This book, with five million tracts, is sent out monthly, and the official paper or magazine, known as the *Herald of Christ's Presence*, has been read and studied by millions more. This literature is printed in all modern languages and is being read widely in this country and throughout Christendom. The books are sold at a nominal price for persons desiring to possess these copies; and for those unable to purchase, it is possible to get them freely given; a certain number of colporteurs scour our land, who stand at the doors of Churches or Missions and distribute tracts and literature "without money and without price." Clergy and ministers are regularly sent literature through the post; there is a remarkable system of perfectly organized and universal distribution. The writings of this man claim to be an exposition of the Bible, and he claims especially to be the exponent of the prophetic Scriptures.

Sufficient has been written to indicate the awful and baneful dangers of this modern heresy that is now being advocated in our country. In our large cities, Millennial Dawnists, the followers of Russell, are still advocating these false doctrines. The largest halls are taken, such as the Albert Hall, in London, attended by thousands of people. Why is this particular theory so attractive? What is it that draws the people? Possibly one of the causes of the success of Russellism in America and throughout Great Britain is in a large measure due to the fact that the majority of Christians in our Churches are absolutely ignorant of the prophetic element in Scripture. Had ministers and clergy generally devoted but a moderate portion of their time and effort to unfolding God's Plan for the Redemption of the world throughout the different ages, such false apostles as Russell would have found very little response to their theories. But alas! when the prophecies of Daniel and the eschatological portions of St. Paul's writings, and the Book of Revelation

and the apocalyptic prophecies of our Lord are scarcely ever studied and are seldom heard in the pulpit from one year's end to another, it is inevitable that when a remarkable personality such as "Pastor" Russell appears, with his business-like gifts and abilities, and produces charts and forecasts with regard to future events, attention, and finally assent, is given to his theories.

The late war has proved that many of our men at the Front, especially those in the lands of Palestine, Egypt and Mesopotamia, have been stirred to read the prophetic Scriptures, but there is a general lament that the clergy do not treat of these subjects, and consequently they go to such teachers and books that profess to be able exponents of the prophetic Scriptures—alas!—to their spiritual harm.

The aggressive propaganda of Millennial Dawnism that is being carried on to-day under the auspices of "The International Bible Students' Association" should be met with an organization equally as well advertised as theirs. The facts concerning the so-called and self-styled "Pastor" C. T. Russell should be made world-wide. Also the doctrines taught by Millennial Dawnism should be clearly exposed from every pulpit, especially where the heresy is being propagated. To this end the following useful cheap booklets are suggested for careful reading and study:—

1. *Millennial Dawnism, or The Blasphemous Religion which Teaches the Annihilation of Jesus Christ.* By I. M. Haldeman, D.D. Published by Charles C. Cook, 150, Nassau Street, N.Y.

2. *The Millennial Nightmare.* By W. M. Robertson. Published by Pickering & Inglis, Paternoster Row.

3. *What are the Doctrines of Millennial Dawn?* By John Macdonald. Published by Pickering & Inglis.

4. *All about one Russell.* By Charles C. Cook, 150, Nassau Street, N.Y.

5. *Some Facts and More Facts about the Self-Styled "Pastor" C. T. Russell.* By Rev. J. J. Ross, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

6. *How Pastor Russell Died.* By A. J. Pollock. Published by the Central Bible Truth Depot, 5, Rose Street, Paternoster Square.

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